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THURSDAY, AUGUST 15TH, 2013

Weycock Cross meetings
Pages 3

VALE OF GLAMORGAN AGRICULTURAL SHOW
RURAL PROFILE - STARTS ON PAGE 17

LETTERS ON BARRY TOWN
Pages 2 & 32

The Vale Show is going to be bigger and better than ever before!

THE premier local rural event, the Vale of Glamorgan Show, takes place on Wednesday, August 21, and it promises to be even bigger and better than ever.

The show, which takes place at Fonmon Castle grounds, draws over 20,000 people – both spectators and entrants – from all over Britain.

Nicola Gibson, the general secretary, told The GEM this week, that it was a day which provided something for all those who love the Welsh countryside – along with dozens of attractions for all the family.

"We're delighted with the response of competitors – there are record entrants in the cattle, sheep and horse classes. In total there will be more than 250 trade stands.

"The Kangaroo Kid is back by popular demand performing quad bike stunts, and will be the main attraction in the ring.

"There will also be a special display by the police dogs."

All that – plus the grand parade of prize-winning animals at 3pm, craft fair, food hall, fairground, circus workshop and entertainments for children – promise to make it a wonderful day out.

• *For The GEM's special Vale of Glamorgan Show feature, turn to pages 17 - 23.*

RIGHT: Some of the young stars of A Midsummer Night's Dream, which was staged by the KS3 drama club at Barry Comprehensive School. (For the full story, turn to page 4).

Barry Town United in historic victory!

Report by TIM CHAPMAN

BARRY TOWN UNITED has won a historic battle to return to the Welsh League.

A legal judgement at Cardiff High Court said the Football Association of Wales (FAW) should have backed one of its own committee's recommendations that the club be allowed to join the league's division three.

The Football Association of Wales said it accepted the decision taken by the court.

A spokesman confirmed: "The association will be acting upon the recommendation made. A FAW council meeting will take place on Wednesday." (As The GEM was going to press).

Supporters will have expected that meeting to rubber stamp a return to the Welsh league. They will then be able to claim victory in a campaign that started late last season when the club was withdrawn from the league by Stuart Lovering.

The legal dispute was a 'high stakes' victory for the campaign – defeat could have meant being condemned to local parks football. However,the supporters' committee and the manager Gavin Chesterfield triumphed.

The Vale's MP Alun Cairns said he was thrilled for the supporters.

"Having worked closely with the supporters' committee for more than a year, I am truly delighted that they won the case.

"I want to pay tribute to their efforts and commitment. Many would have given up."

Mr Cairns said he believed Barry Town supporters had been treated poorly by the Welsh FA Council, but their commitment to the cause had seen them through.

"I am personally aware of the hours and hours they have spent planning, organising, raising funds, lobbying – and a host of other activities.

"Having come to know them well over recent times, I know the club is in safe hands.

"Last October, I organised a meeting with the Welsh FA and the supporters' committee and, at that time, we were desperate to get to the end of the season.

"We also acknowledged then that a drop of two divisions would be worth it – if that gave them control of the club.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

Schools' merger?

THE Vale Council is considering the merger of two of its senior schools, Barry Comprehensive and Bryn Hafren.

To find out when the consultation begins, turn to page 3.

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DOG FOULING:
Vale Council officer replies to complaint

I REFER to the letter titled *'Dog Fouling: No Action Taken'* published in your 'readers' letters' page on August 1.

I can assure the author of this letter, and all your readers, that we do take the enforcement of the offence of not cleaning up after a dog seriously; and where anyone provides us with details, whether they provide their contact details or report the offence anonymously, investigate the matter – and unless the person in question is exempt from their duty to clean up after their dog due to their physical mobility, or other specified disability, will take appropriate enforcement action against the offender.

All formal complaints are logged on our customer services database and given a reference number. From our files of written complaints, I can only find one specific multiple complaint that relates to a single location, all three of which are anonymous in nature.

However, I can confirm that our enforcement officers responded to each letter and took the appropriate action in the circumstances relating to the person stated within these anonymous letters of complaint.

I am, however, unable to provide any detail of what action was taken in respect to the person named within these letters.

Whilst I share the concerns expressed in the letter, in respect of health risks associated with abandoned dog faeces, I can inform your readers that freshly deposited dog faeces are not infectious as the toxocara eggs within the faeces do not become infectious for at least two to three weeks after the faeces have been deposited and the council normally provide a weekly street cleansing service and dog faeces are cleansed prior to them becoming infectious.

Having said that, I would strongly suggest that no matter how long the dog faeces have been on the street, or open space, that no member of the public touches it in any way.

Although unable to contact the author of this letter directly, I would be more than happy to talk to them or visit them should they want to contact me on 01446 700111, in respect of this particular incident of failing to clean up after a dog.

Clifford Parish
(Operational Manager Waste Management and Cleansing Vale of Glamorgan Council)

Readers' Letters

***IMPORTANT!** We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. LETTERS AND EMAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER. AN EMAIL ADDRESS ALONE IS NOT SUFFICIENT!*
We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, DON JOHN, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7E OR email gemeditorial@tindlenews. co.uk

'Who was party to the redundancy pay-offs?'

ANDREW RT Davies AM and Coun Egan are being careful with their words in the article, headlined *'Tory Leader attacks 'lavish' redundancy payment packages' (The GEM, August 8).*

They comment on issues about the generous level of voluntary redundancy payments last year, and blame each other's political tribe – but in my judgement, both parties have had a hand in the matter.

Yes, most decisions appear to have been made when the Conservatives were running the show, but did any councillors oppose the policies and decisions taken? These events take place behind closed doors, making it impossible for taxpayers to challenge, or to witness,the performance of those in power, and opposition committee members.

The annual Statement of Accounts should be a good place to look for information, but the presentation of some data is not helpful in clarifying details.

For example, figures relating to voluntary redundancy payments or savings made are not available, but some other details are revealing.

Over the last three years, the number of employees earning more than £60,000 has risen from 52 to 55 and those earning more than £100,000 have fallen by just one, from seven to six individuals.

Over the last two years, 101 exit packages agreed totalled £2,242,825 – 15 of which (£948,703) were for employees earning more than £40,000.

The accounts also show that the three senior managers who left last year, received the maximum discretionary compensation payment of £30,000: a policy agreed, without comment, at a special council meeting one month before the last election in 2012.

We are told by both parties that the senior management restructure will deliver significant savings year on year, but where are the figures to support this claim?

However, we do know of an increase in council tax this year – 4.8 per cent.

Dennis Harkus, Barry,
FocusBARRY member.

ARE 700 MORE HOUSES REALLY NECESSARY?

IF developers have their way, there will be approximately 700 houses built on the outskirts of Barry at Weycock Cross; my question is, do we really need all these houses?

The two proposed developments at Green Farm and Walters Farm will once again encroach on the countryside and farm land and make the Vale's largest town even bigger.

A large development such as this will have a detrimental effect on the road system and infrastructure in the area, with extra pressure on doctors' surgeries, schools.

According to the Vale of Glamorgan website, there are 749 private properties in the Vale that have been vacant in excess of six months.

Vacant properties can be a nuisance for both owners and those living nearby. Empty properties can attract vandalism, criminal activity, anti-social behaviour, and blight the neighbourhood in general.

The Welsh Government has recently launched its 'Houses into Homes' initiative. Advice and interest free loans of up to £25,000 will be available to property owners to assist them in bringing long-term empty properties back into use.

If there are all these vacant properties, why do we need to build more? Surely, this scheme will not only ease any housing shortage, but hopefully be of benefit to the community in general.

On a wider scale, with further planned developments at Sully and Culverhouse Cross, is it the WAG's intention to allow development of this part of the Vale until it merely becomes an extension of a Greater Cardiff?

Barbara Entwistle,
Barry

HEALTH FUNDING: 'The Welsh civil service to blame'

IN his recent letter, G Roberts seeks to blame the failings of the Welsh NHS, at first, on the excitement within the WAG health department at the then forthcoming 2010 election. He then goes on to blame George Osborne.

What he ignores is that the Welsh civil service should have had nothing to do with the election, purely an issue for political parties.

In reality what happened is that incompetent civil servants failed to apply for funding at the appropriate time. What happened to those officials? Have they been dismissed?

The WAG Health Minister, who failed to manage her officials, should have known the budgeting arrangements and must take full responsibility!

Health has been a devolved issue in Wales for many years. The failings of the Welsh NHS, of which there are many, are a consequence of poor decisions by the WAG and a total failure of Assembly Members to hold the WAG to account.

Although the £385m would have been more than welcome it has to be seen in the context of the £6 billion Welsh NHS budget – G Roberts would do better to place the blame firmly on those responsible rather than use Westminster as a scapegoat.

J Turner
Rhoose

WELL DONE, BARRY TOWN!

MANY congratulations to Barry Town AFC (United) for winning their epic battle against the FAW.

Many thanks to all those who supported the club during this tense time, the supporters, manager, players, council officials, MPs, and many more, who supported the club.

It is now time for the FAW to take a good hard look at themselves after this – resignations must follow. Barry Town can now only grow stronger and in time emulate past victories. Well done, Barry Town, we are proud of you.

DJ Radford, Barry

Three cheers for Barry Town!

THE wonderful victory of Barry Town United on over the powerful FAW, was achieved by those determined to right what has now been proved to be very wrong in the High Court, with its decision making, governance and lack of transparency in Welsh football now exposed.

This David and Goliath scenario has been brought to light by a bunch of dedicated supporters, superbly led by manager Gavin Chesterfield, his tireless wife Hannah, and their committee – all of whom worked day and night to bring justice to the town and its community.

They could not possibly have done more, so let's all now support them and thank them by attending matches and cheer on their team, who have stood by them – in spite of efforts by other clubs to recruit them.

These lads do not play for personal gain, but for a principled manager, supporters, and the injustice that had befallen them – pride and loyalty personified.

What a way to celebrate the centenary it would be, for the people of Barry to recognise – the courage of those, unlike others, who over many years were not afraid to fight for football democracy, and win.

W D Cronk, Barry.

Wartime memories of RAF Llandow

A RECENT holiday in the Vale of Glamorgan included a nostalgic visit to what was once the RAF airfield at Llandow – now unrecognisable as such, of course.

It was where I was stationed both during and after the war, so it holds many memories for me.

During 1941-43, I served at RAF Llandow as a young Sergeant Armourer, servicing the Spitfire 1s, 2s, and 5s of No.53 Operational Training Unit, for aspiring young fighter pilots.

There was a satellite airfield at Rhoose, now Cardiff Airport, where our pupil pilots practised their air-firing skills. The Commanding Officer was that famous little Welshman and World War One fighter ace, Group Captain Ira Jones, whose favourite watering hole was The Bear at Cowbridge!

After the war in 1946-49, against all the odds. I was posted back to RAF Llandow, much to the joy of my dear Welsh wife, Linda, who hailed from Bridgend.

This time it was to No. 614 County of Glamorgan Squadron Royal Auxiliary Air Force, flying Spitfire 16s and 22s.

Hence my nostalgic visit, and enduring affinity with the area.

Henry Hand,
Newbury, Berkshire.

Join Macmillan's coffee morning

Macmillan Cancer Support would like to invite all of your readers to take part in our World's Biggest Coffee Morning on September 27.

Just get together with family, friends or colleagues and enjoy cakes and a coffee – a very enjoyable way of helping us raise over £15m to help us reach more people affected by cancer.

The money you raise will help Macmillan fund specialist nurses, new cancer centres and grants to support people living with cancer who have financial problems.

For more information, visit *www.macmillan.org.uk/coffee* or call 0845 070 1315.

Rebecca Parke
(Vale of Glamorgan Fundraising Manager, Macmillan Cancer Support)

'Mistake to be outside EU'

I WRITE to support a letter from David Kennett (August 8) who is correct to say how badly damaged our trade would be outside the EU.

Airbus, Ford, Tata etc., invest in Wales because they have tariff-free access to a market of 500 million people in 28 countries; therefore, if the UK was outside the EU, 3m jobs in the UK and 150,000 jobs in Wales would be put at risk.

It is no good arguing the UK could have a trade agreement with the EU similar to Norway. Such am agreement would take a long time to negotiate and (like Norway) we would have to pay to be part of a single market, but have no say on the rules.

We would be wise to listen to business people like Sir Richard Branson, companies like Nissan, and countries like the US and Japan, who all tell us it would be a huge mistake for the UK to be outside the EU.

Finally, some good news: I have been able to negotiate an increase in EU funds for Wales, including a huge increase to east Wales.

These funds can provide much-needed investment in infrastructure, skills training and SME development. East Wales should, in the next period, receive over £300m in regional funds.

When you add in rural funds, money to our universities etc., Wales is a NET beneficiary of EU funds.

Therefore, if we want to retain jobs and important investment funds for Wales, it is vital we have a strong voice in Europe.

Derek Vaughan MEP,
Ogmore by Sea.

• *Email your letters to The Editor, Don John, at* ***gemeditorial @tindlenews.co.uk*** *including your* ***FULL NAME, ADDRESS and TELEPHONE NUMBER.***

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HIGH TIDE TIMES
(UNTIL AUGUST 22)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
15 Thur	00.19	8.4	12.48	8.2
16 Fri	01.28	8.1	14.14	8.0
17 Sat	02.49	7.9	15.38	8.2
18 Sun	04.17	8.5	16.53	8.8
19 Mon	05.28	8.9	17.55	9.5
20 Tues	06.23	9.6	18.48	10.2
21 Wed	07.11	10.1	19.34	10.4
22 Thur	07.58	10.2	20.19	10.5

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Weycock Cross plans highlight 'speculative' housing applications

by TIM CHAPMAN

BARRY TOWN COUNCIL'S planning committee heard a strong objection to plans to build 500 houses on the northern side of Weycock Cross on Tuesday, August 6.

Plaid Cymru town councillor Ian Johnson told The GEM that a group called the Friends of Weycock Cross told committee membes that the location was the site of two sites of nature conservation.

He explained: "They also raised concerns about the impact of a substantial increase in car traffic upon the top road along Port Road towards the Docks Link Road and Culverhouse Cross.

"This application comes at the same time as a similar application for another 200 houses on Green Farm, on the other side of Weycock Cross.

"Fears were raised that this would be the precursor to further building to fill in the land as far as the Cwm Ciddy pub and down the Five Mile Lane."

Coun Johnson said the Vale Council appeared to have 'scrapped' the Local Development Plan with no consideration of how developers would respond.

He pointed out: "I worry that Barry and the rest of the Vale will now get a whole range of speculative housing applications while there are no plans in place. The target number of houses for the Vale needs to be revised as the population has not grown as fast as originally predicted."

Six days after making its presentation to Barry Town Council, the Friends of Weycock Cross held a lively second public meeting on Monday this week.

A spokesperson told The GEM that people were concerned that in the absence of a new LDP, the housebuilder Taylor Wimpey was attempting to obtain consent to develop the site at Green Farm prior to a new LDP which may or may not contain the land for potential development.

The group told The GEM there were short presentations from Alun Cairns MP, and local councillors Rhona Probert , Claire Curtis and Phil Clarke on planning objection procedure for the development of 200 houses by Taylor Wimpey on existing agricultural land at Green Farm.

The people making presentations urged members of the public to put their objections in writing to the Vale Council. Local residents received letters on August 6 giving them only 21 days to object.

Following the meeting, Alun Cairns said: "It is important that anyone who is concerned about development on this site or about the issues it causes such as more congestion along Port Road and Pontypridd Road send in their objection letters to the Vale Planning Department quoting Planning Reference Number 2013/00701/OUT."

The GEM contacted Taylor Wimpey to ask for its views on development at Weycock Cross.

A spokesperson said: "The site was originally allocated for residential development in the Deposit Local Development Plan, so we progressed with the preparation of an outline planning application for the land.

"Regardless of the fact the LDP has been withdrawn by the local planning authority following the last elections, there remains a proven housing need in the Vale, which will need to be met via the development of various sites."

He insisted: "The credentials of this site when compared to other proposed sites in the Vale remain strong, and therefore we are progressing the application as planned. It is unfortunate that there is the delay to the LDP process which creates uncertainty for everyone, however we feel it is prudent to continue with our application in the meantime."

(See letters on pages 2 and 32, and story to the left of this page).

Merger of Barry secondary schools CONSULTATION NEXT MONTH

AN initial consultation to discuss the possibility of merging two single-sex secondary schools in Barry – to create one mixed boys and girls school in the town – will take place in September.

A proposal to combine the all-girls school, Bryn Hafren and the all-boys school Barry Comprehensive was first discussed in a Vale Council Cabinet Meeting in July.

Coun Chris Elmore, the Vale cabinet member for children's services, told The GEM that the consultation was the first step in exploring the proposal of a new mixed secondary school in Barry.

"It's a way for us to test the water and gauge the general feeling among the community on the possibility of merging the two schools to create one new mixed boys and girls comprehensive school."

The consultation will open on Monday, September 9, for eight weeks. Drop-in sessions will be held during this time to provide parents, pupils, teachers and stakeholders with the opportunity to find out more and discuss their views on the proposal.

'ADVANCE WARNING'

Full details on the consultation will be distributed to pupils at Bryn Hafren and Barry Comprehensive during the first week of the new school term in September, providing parents with an advance warning before the consultation officially opens.

The results of the consultation will dictate whether or not the proposal is taken further.

Even if the consultation indicates that there is support for a new mixed secondary school, it is only the first step in a long process.

The next step would be a second consultation which would produce a detailed plan of how a merger might take place.

Formal objections to Weycock Cross plans are made

FOLLOWING a recent meeting of the Friends of Weycock Cross Committee, formal letters of objection have been sent to the Vale Council's planning department and Taylor Wimpey concerning an application for housing development on Green Farm, Weycock Cross.

Objectors cite content of the UDP prior to the issue of the new LDP, proposed building on active agricultural land, designated green wedge, outside the urban boundary, existing inadequate road infrastructure, adverse effect on existing local services e.g. schools, medical and dental surgeries, together with concerns over drainage and sewerage issues.

They also list potential destruction of the environment and natural habitats, pollution with its close proximity to Porthkerry Country Park and a general reduction in the overall quality of life for existing local residents.

Spokesman Frank Cleland said: "The committee hopes that everyone affected by the proposed development will raise their objections in writing to the Vale's planning department as lack of formal resistance to the plans will lead to an inevitable result.

"We would welcome assistance or comment particularly from affected residents or anyone with experience of planning developments. Friends of Weycock Cross can be contacted as follows: website www.friendsofweycockcross.co.uk; email contact@friendsofweycockcross.co.uk; Facebook Friend of Weycock Cross."

Vibe multi-media unit goes mobile

MEDIA equipment funded by the Barry Regeneration Fund, has enabled Vibe to create a state-of-the-art mobile media unit.

The vehicle will target young people in areas of high deprivation including areas of low income and high unemployment across Barry and rest of the Vale.

"Our vehicle features brand new Apple Mac laptops, where young people can create films to increase their skills and gain employment and training in media related industries," a spokesperson explained.

Contact Mike Bendell, 01446 700622 or email mike.bendell@vibe-creative.com for details.

Thieves steal gully grids

THIEVES have stolen 12 drainage gully grids in Barry, Llandough and Penarth in the last week – while a further two have been taken from roads in Dinas and Sully in the last fortnight.

The latest spate of theft comes after more than 70 gully grids were stolen during February and March of this year. Several of the roads that were targeted earlier this year have been struck again, indicating that the same group or individual is likely to be responsible for the latest raids.

The estimated cost of replacing each gully grid could be as much as £200 per grid.

The grids are being cut away by the thieves leaving gaping holes on the side of the road which are a hazard to motorists and pedestrians.

The Vale Council is urging residents to be vigilant and to report any unusual activity or vans acting suspiciously in the area to the council on 01446 700111.

Bus loss to pensioners

I AM sure many people are going to miss the 98 bus service on a Saturday from Severn Avenue and Highlight Park.

We are not car owners but pensioners, who would like to go shopping to Barry Dock and to the library, etc.

I can't understand what Cardiff Bus are thinking about – it is ridiculous of them.

Mrs H Hookway, Barry.

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No offer is available in conjunction with any other offer or discounts

Drama group entertains with special performance

Louis Davies snug playing the lion.

The whole cast.

A VIBRANT version of A Midsummer Night's Dream was staged by the KS3 drama club at Barry Comprehensive School. The show was a huge success and was highly praised by all who came to see this very special performance.

The younger students relished the opportunity to be able to show the school what they could achieve and, wearing breeches, wings and dresses, spoke Shakespearean 'language' with confidence to audiences of more than 80 on two consecutive nights.

As a club, they really supported each other during rehearsals and demonstrated the meaning of the word teamwork. Mrs Audra Ellis commented: "I am extremely proud of what the children have achieved and feel very privileged to have worked with such a talented group of young performers.

"I am sure that this will not be the last we see of them on this stage in the years to come. In fact, students have already been asking, "*So Miss, what are we doing next?*"

The possibilities are endless!" **AC**

Oberon tells off Puck.

United's historic win!

{CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Mr Cairns continued: "Sadly, the owner withdrew the club from the league, which meant we had to fight for our place. Last week's victory has given us that."

Mr Cairns said he believed the club had solid foundations for the future.

"The most important facts now are that Barry Town continues and its future is secure in the hands of supporters committed to the club.

"I for one will be turning up regularly to Jenner Park. The footballing campaign for promotion is just starting."

The local Assembly Member Jane Hutt praised the supporters' campaign too.

"This brilliant news! Congratulations to the supporters for their fantastic campaign which has saved Barry Town Football Club and put them back at the forefront of Welsh football!"

'TENSE'

Plaid Cymru councillor Ian Johnson, who was a former Barry Town correspondent for The GEM, said the legal victory paved the way for a new era of Barry being represented in the Welsh League.

"It's great news that the club won their case against the FAW and will be playing in Welsh League Division Three next season.

"The court case was very tense and it could have gone in either direction. Listening to the judge's summary, it really was a game of two halves.

"This decision marks a new era in the history of football in Barry and, with Barry Town United taking over the organisation of the Vale Football Academy this season, there can be a consistent approach to football development locally with the club supporting football at all levels."

Coun Johnson said he was particularly looking forward to clashes against other teams in the Vale.

"There will be some juicy local derbies against Rhoose and Llantwit Major in the league next year for Vale football fans to look forward to, and Barry Town United certainly won't have it all their own way."

'WANTED: SOMEONE FROM THE REAL WORLD'

IT was with mounting disbelief, verging on horror, that I read The GEM article on alleged profligate mis-spending of council taxpayers' money at the Vale Council's building services.

Not only am I appalled at what appears to be incredibly weak management of the workforce, and the fact that the workers concerned appear not to be doing what they are paid for; but far worse than that is the thought anybody in their right mind would even consider spending £768,000 on an electronic system, in an attempt to put the matter right.

How can this possibly save money? Surely a simple clocking-on and -off machine, and a manager out and about checking on his workforce, who employs trustworthy staff, would be a straightforward solution!

It would appear to me, that the council workforce is completely overstaffed with overpaid, totally inadequate people.

Can we please have somebody from the real world, who will stop wasting the huge amount of council tax on mad electronic systems – like the millions spent on computerisation of all the Vale's departments, a few years ago – and reduce the dreadful burden which is now placed on us all by enormous council tax bills.

A forlorn hope.

Judith Maynard, Penarth.

Dr Jonathan Hicks tells the story of one of Barry's heroes of the Great War

Barry man was killed in last days of World War One

LANCE Corporal William Edward Durbin, of the Border Regiment, was born in Caerleon in July 1893, but owing to the employment prospects provided by the growing port of Barry, his family moved to the town.

Before the Great War, he had been an apprentice plumber at the Tyne Engine Works at Barry Docks and was the son of Mr and Mrs Alfred Durbin of 57, Castle Street, Barry.

William enlisted as a Kitchener volunteer in November 1914 and was sent to Suvla Bay, Gallipoli, in October 1915. On February 25, 1916, he was awarded seven days Field Punishment Number One for insolence to an officer at Sidi Bishr in Alexandria.

He obviously learnt his lesson, because on November 18, 1916, he was appointed Lance Corporal.

He was decorated with the Military Medal for bravery on August 22, 1917, near St Julien during the battle of Third Ypres, or Passchendale. William was a signaller, so perhaps he was one of the men mentioned in the War Diary: "*Owing to the heavy shelling throughout the morning, all telephone lines were cut, and in spite of the splendid effort of the linesmen, communication was kept up chiefly by runners who did splendid work.*"

On September 22, 1917, he was appointed Corporal but was wounded in action on October 14, 1917 – a gunshot wound to his arm. He reverted to the rank of Lance Corporal on this date.

After a short period of leave at home in Barry, he returned to the Western Front and on October 15, 1918, the battalion had been ordered to attack the German positions around Saline and Heule, east of Ypres.

They came under machine gun fire and artillery fire directed by German aircraft, and William Durbin was one of the 104 casualties.

His list of personal effects were: letters, photos, his diary, two books, some postcards and a leather case.

William is remembered on the All Saints Church marble memorial and on the brass plaque in Romilly School, as well as in the Hall of Memory in Barry Memorial Hall.

The town where he fell in Belgium is to hold a special commemorative event in October 2018.

I would be pleased to hear from any relatives of William Durbin, who may wish to learn more about this. I can be contacted on 07708 255295.

Waiting game is over

Demolition restarts after seagull saga

THE go-ahead has been given for Newydd Housing Association on the former Barry Magistrates Court site, after nesting seagulls and their chicks prevented demolition work from continuing.

Demolition began on May 13 by contractors Aberdare Demolition, but was halted on July 12, until seagull chicks had fledged their nests from the roof of the building in Barry.

An inspection of the roof by the Vale Council ecologist on August 8 has concluded that although young seagulls can still be seen on the building, the chicks are now fully capable of avoiding demolition work and are considered to have fledged their nests," a spokeswoman reported.

Aberdare Demolition were back on site on Monday (August 12), and final demolition is expected to be completed within a fortnight.

The site will provide 52 affordable houses and flats in the area, as well as retail units. The project represents a £6 million investment in total in the regeneration of Barry town centre and is funded with Welsh Government grant and private finance ,secured by Newydd through a recent bond issue, which achieved an historically low rate of interest.

Paul Roberts, Chief Executive of Newydd Housing Association, said: "We would like to thank Aberdare Demolition for securing the site and monitoring the birds over the last few weeks, while demolition was at a standstill; they have been very helpful during this waiting game.

"We would also like to thank local residents for also monitoring the site for us and informing us of any seagull sightings. We look forward to the construction of these new affordable homes and will continue to inform residents of progress on the site."

ENERGY ADVICE AT BARRY MARKET

RESIDENTS in the Vale will be able to get free, one-to-one energy saving advice from a team of expert advisors at Barry Market.

The Energy Saving Trust's advice centre team will be on hand, 10am – 4pm on Tuesday, August 20, to provide energy saving advice and support to help residents reduce their bills and make smarter lifestyle choices.

Visit of 'Irene' celebrates links between Somerset and the south Wales coast

PHOTOS by GLYN EVANS

ABOVE: The Irene at rest after its journey from Minehead.

WHEN the Vale Mayor, Coun Margaret Wilkinson, met the Mayor of Minehead and visitors aboard Irene to celebrate the historic links between Barry and Minehead, GEM photographer Glyn Evans was on hand to record the event.

Irene is a West Country trading ketch that was built in 1907. The ship was sailed across from Minehead to Barry by a group of young people from the YMCA and West Somerset Community College.

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Police issue a warning over 'rogue traders'

RESIDENTS in the Wenvoe area are being urged to be "on the lookout" for rogue traders following an incident in Gwenvo Drive on August 6.

Neighbours raised the alarm when they noticed workmen on the roof of a property occupied by a couple in their 90s.

A police officer responded to the call and managed to stop the workmen in a van nearby.

The men were questioned at the roadside and a subsequent visit to the elderly couple confirmed no money had changed hands with the men but arrangements had been made for the workmen to return a few days later to collect the money.

A police spokesman said: "The elderly couple have been given suitable advice and are being supported.

"Elderly residents, their families, and neighbours who live nearby, are all urged to be extra vigilant as incidents such as these tend to occur in spates."

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LABOUR SURGERY

THE Labour councillors for Castleland ward in Barry, Councillors Chris Elmore, Pamela Drake, Karl Kuhnell and Les Sword, will hold their regular monthly advice surgery this Saturday, August 17, at the Drop-In Centre, Castleland Community Centre, Belvedere Crescent, Barry, from 10.30am-12pm.

No appointment is needed. Contact Coun Elmore on 01446 450007 or 07867 506 116.

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5. Vegetarian Hot Mushroom, fresh chilli, onion and peppers			
6. Mexicano Spicy beef, spicy chicken, jalapeno and peppers (extra cheese)			
7. Pepperoni Passion Double pepperoni, double cheese			
8. Kebab Special Chicken and doner kebab, onion & peppers (extra cheese)			
9. Meat Feast Pepperoni, spicy beef, spicy chicken, meatballs & ham (extra cheese)			
10. Chicken Combo Chicken tikka, roast chicken, Chinese chicken & tandoori chicken			
11. Hot Shot Pepperoni, salami, jalapeno, onion, peppers & garlic butter			
12. American Hot Pepperoni, onion, spicy beef & fresh chilli (extra cheese)			
13. Tikka Tikka Onion, chicken, tikka, peppers, American spicy sausage & mushroom			
14. Romeo's Tandoori Mushroom, onion, tandoori chicken & peppers			
15. Seafood Tuna, prawns, anchovies, olives & onion (extra cheese)			
16. London Pizza BBQ sauce, pepperoni, spicy beef, onion & American spicy sausage			
17. Paris Pizza BBQ sauce, roast chicken, smoky bacon, onion & peppers			
18. Doner Pizza BBQ sauce & doner slices (extra cheese)			
19. Romeo Meatball Spicy sausage, onion, meatball, pepperoni & green peppers			
20. Chicken Special Spicy chicken, Chinese chicken, onion, fresh tomato & peppers			
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District governor's message for the Barry Rotary Club

LEFT: President elect Robin Pitcher, district governor 1150 David Curtis, Barry president Peter Battle, president nominee Paul Halstead.

ROTARY'S District 1150 Governor David Curtis and his wife Marian, from Pontllanfraith, were the special guests at the Barry Rotarians' dinner meeting on August 8, at Mount Sorrel Hotel.

Speaking to members, David shared his views on Rotary, highlighting the new Rotary International president Ron Burton's theme for 2013/14, 'Engage Rotary, Change Lives.'

He described projects Rotary are engaged in locally, nationally and internationally and how these change lives by helping those less fortunate than others.

He spoke of Paul Harris who, in 1905, founded the Rotary movement whose motto is 'Service above Self.'

He concluded by presenting a special banner to club president Peter Battle, and ties to president-elect Robin Pitcher and president nominee Paul Halstead.

Peter Battle thanked him for a most interesting talk – part of a very busy month for the club, who held a 'Pork in the Park' barbecue at the Welsh Hawking Centre on August 2 and raised £800 for Rotary charities, while making preparations to attend the Vale Show at Fonmon on August 21.

They will be supporting Stroke Awareness by offering free blood pressure checks to everyone.

Barry Rotarians support the Vale Food Bank with monthly donations of food and the club recently participated in the National Rotary Club's 'Kids Out' event, taking a coach full of selected pupils from three local schools to Brean Sands Holiday Park for free rides and ice-cream.

The club supports the Rotary International eradication of polio project sponsored by Bill Gates, as well as contributing to Water Aid and Shelter Box projects.

National youth projects take place during the year, such as Young Chef and Youth Speaks competitions which involve pupils from local comprehensive schools.

In 2012, the senior team from Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Barry, won third place in the national final of the Youth Speaks competition.

Plans are currently in hand for the Annual Fireworks Fiesta on November 5 on Barry Island.

The club meets weekly in Mount Sorrel Hotel on Thursdays 6pm for 6.30pm. Contact Peter Battle on 01446 710204.

Vale MP praises Foodbank's help for those in need

VALE MP Alun Cairns recently helped out at the Trussell Trust Foodbank, which was supported by Barry Tesco during its National Food Collection Appeal.

The Conservative MP reported: "Over two days, the local store collected enough food to provide 4,063 meals to those in need across the Vale this summer.

"Across the UK, the equivalent of 26,000 trolley-loads of food were collected in the supermarket's stores."

He went on: "I am a strong supporter of the Foodbank, which the Trussell Trust organises, and went to support the collection in Barry some weeks ago.

"Barry Tesco's customers showed extraordinary generosity and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all who contributed to the collection, which provided over 4,000 meals for people in the Vale.

"I think foodbanks have a major positive role to play in linking support, rather than simply making people more dependent. The roll-out of the Universal Credit later this autumn will also have a major part in helping the most needy families."

Building society gives local charities a boost...

by PHILIP IRWIN

ABOVE: Rebecca Parke of Macmillan, pictured with Jon Tucker, collected almost £1,000 for the charity.

THREE Vale charities were invited to Cowbridge last week to share £1,000, courtesy of the Yorkshire Building Society's 'Charity Choices' campaign.

The YBS Cowbridge branch manager, Jon Tucker, explained: "Our members were asked to vote for charities that could benefit from our fund, which is organised on a national basis.

"Our branch had £1,000 available to donate and, after the votes were counted, Ty Hafan, Action for Children and the Dogs Trust were the beneficiaries."

The Ty Hafan hospice at Sully received £500, £300 went to Action for Children, and the Dogs Trust received £200.

Jon Tucker had another charitable donation to make on the day, and this was to Macmillan nurses.

He said: "Macmillan are our charity of the year, and we recently reported that staff had raised £618 through a charity walk.

"Our head office has decided to add to this sum, so Macmillan will receive an extra £350 as a result."

Rebecca Parke, Macmillan's local fundraising manager, went along to collect the cheque.

Walker makes light of her broken wrist!

Ramblers in red kite country.

SEVEN Penarth and District Ramblers joined leader Phil for a trip to Carmarthenshire, journeying to the upper Tywi Valley which is reservoir, red kite, red squirrel and Twm Sion Cati country.

They began from the massive Llyn Brianne, where the controversial reservoir was created at a height of 299 feet and where despite a great deal of local opposition, work began in October 1968.

The dam controls the flow of the River Tywi (or Towy) and the excess water is lost via the impressive spillway.

Since 1996, its capacity has been enlarged and a hydro-electric station has been constructed at its base.

Despite breaking her wrist in a fall during the walk, one woman rambler completed the whole 14 miles!

More than one red kite was spotted as they continued through the ruggedly beautiful Doethie Valley en route to Wales' most remote white-painted chapel at Soar-y-Mynydd, still with its box pews, which are angled at the side so the congregation had a good view of the preacher.

Following mountain and forestry tracks on their way back to Llyn Brianne, they pondered the many tales about Twm Sion Cati or Thomas Jones (1530-1609) who used this area as his playground and was known as the Welsh version of Robin Hood.

This illegitimate son of Cati and Sir John Wynn of Gwydir was allegedly very handsome, a highwayman, thief and prankster who was also a poet and bard who could disguise the animals he stole by using plant dyes and false tails!

Legend states he hid in a cave on Dinas Hill near Ystrad-ffin and the cave walls are etched with carved names and initials of the many who have visited. His memory is celebrated locally each year on May17.

On August 17, a change to the planned programme; meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a 10-mile moderate walk at Quakers Yard; contact Barbara on 01446 794313.

On August 23, meet at 7am at Cogan for a trip to Westbury on Severn to view the Severn Bore and incorporating a 10-mile easy walk taking in the water gardens at Westbury Court; contact William on 01446 747239.

Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

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VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

'Bus services must be prioritised'

DO you still have a local bus service? Depending on where you live in the Vale, this has become a real issue for many local residents.

Since earlier this year, I've been frequently contacted by constituents concerned by the widespread cuts to bus services across the Vale, from Barry to Peterston Super Ely and Llantwit Major.

Elderly residents are unable to get to hospital appointments; others have reported that they are unable to get to work and have to consider leaving work, as it is not financially viable for them to pay taxis or buy a car (if they drive).

Back in April, after meeting local bus contractors, I understood that the current level of subsidy that they receive from the Vale of Glamorgan Council wouldn't allow them to provide a service on a like-for-like basis in the future.

At that time, I called on the local authority to prioritise their budgets to help support the local bus services.

As medical services are being centralised, bus services become even more important.

The service between Llantwit and Barry is essential and key to accessing the hospitals in Llandough and the Heath in Cardiff.

Bus routes X99 and 95 to Barry Island have also changed their routes, and elderly residents tell me they can no longer get to their local shops and amenities.

The background is the cut to the Bus Operating Grant (BUSOG) provided by the Welsh Government, which subsidises the routes. This deal with the bus industry and local authorities has provided financial certainty for the concessionary travel scheme for elderly and disabled people.

Administered by local authorities, they in turn are reimbursed by the Welsh Government.

I don't understand why the Welsh Government has cut the bus operating grant so much more than in England.

I've raised the matter with the Welsh Government, but it seems that they are not going to change their plans.

In the year that £52m has been spent on an airport, the Welsh Government needs to understand that some of the most vulnerable people use bus services for essential purposes.

The Airport Express bus service linking Cardiff Airport and the city centre is funded by the Welsh Government, in conjunction with Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Councils.

I understand from local residents and business owners that they have regularly seen the bus empty of passengers. How much is this costing the taxpayer?

While I support all efforts to help Cardiff Airport to attract new airlines and to make the airport sustainable, I do question the cost of the service provided by the Welsh Government, when subsidies for other more essential bus services in the Vale are being slashed.

It seems to me that the Vale Council must prioritise local bus services for communities across the Vale.

I raised the matter with the Vale Council, which could support the routes directly.

The Leader of the Vale Council advised me some months ago that they were going to review all their bus routes and the levels of support over the summer.

I'm yet to hear about the date for a review and would ask GEM readers to contribute their views once the review is published.

Many Vale residents rely on the bus service for daily essentials – shopping, health appointments and, of course, travelling to work.

Surely the council will prioritise its funding to support essential local bus services?

If the Vale received a fair funding settlement from Welsh Government, and was not one of the lowest level funded local authorities, this issue would be all the easier to rectify.

Vale MP Alun Cairns reports to GEM readers

STAGECOACH THEATRE ARTS STUDENTS CELEBRATE THEIR SILVER ANNIVERSARY

IN celebration of Stagecoach's 25th anniversary, 220 students from Stagecoach Bridgend and Cowbridge performed a spectacular evening of musical theatre to a packed house at Barry Memorial Theatre.

The young performers, aged six to 19 years, thrilled and impressed with wonderful song and dance routines, from the 'silver screen' to 'modern day'; the 'West End' to 'Broadway' – including '*Wicked*', '*Billy Elliot*', '*A Chorus Line*', 'Hairspray', 'Rock of Ages', 'Singing in the Rain', and 'Beauty & The Beast''.

The finale featured all performers on-stage for an unforgettable medley from the musical *Matilda*, which brought rapturous applause and a well-deserved standing ovation.

WICK SHOW

WICK Horticultural Society's annual show will be held in Wick Village Hall on August 31 at 2pm. Prizes, raffle and refreshments.

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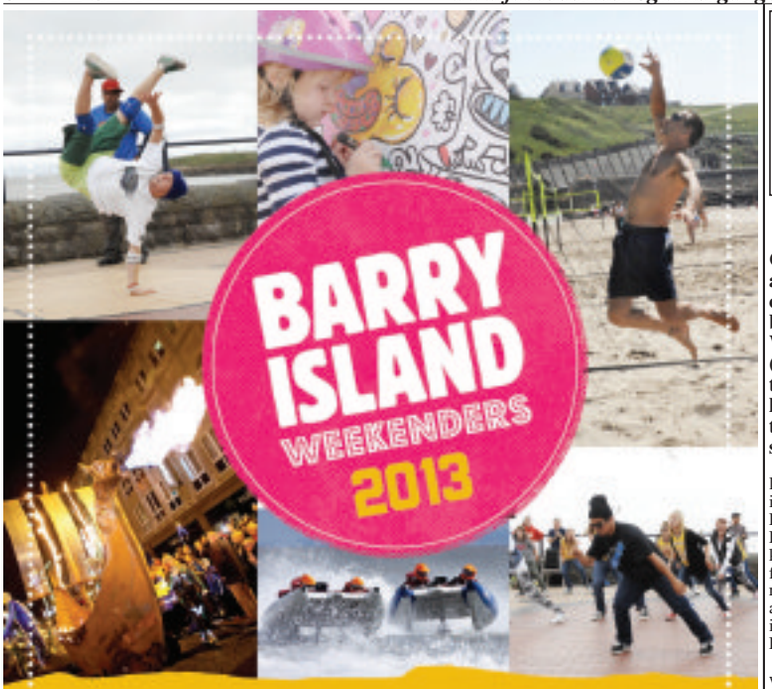

FREE FAMILY EVENTS AT BARRY ISLAND

17 & 18 August
Seaside Sport Weekender

Enjoy a host of sports by the sea. Take part in Beach Volleyball, Disability Sports and Beach Tennis. Try your skills on the surf simulator and the climbing wall and explore the Play Village.

The England Beach Soccer Team will also be on the beach.

The weekend will end with Zumba on the Prom with Andrea on Sunday at 5pm.

24 & 25 August
Cinema by the Sea Weekender

Barry Island Gardens will host two nights of classic cinema:

Saturday from 8.30pm
BACK TO THE FUTURE

Sunday from 8.30pm
GREASE SING-A-LONG

Bring a picnic and a blanket and enjoy some music before the film starts. Join in the fun and fancy dress is encouraged!

Please note
Barry Island is an Alcohol Free Zone and no alcohol will permitted at the above events. Also no naked flames including garden candles, barbeques or similar will be allowed onto the gardens during the Cinema weekender

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

All events take place along the prom or Island Gardens. Please note events may change at short notice. For more information please call 01446 704737 or go to www.visitthevale.com

Campaigners celebrate the arrival of Wales' first robotic surgeon

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

CAMPAIGNERS at a Vale-based charity are celebrating – after the Welsh Government (WG) announced that £2.15 million had been put aside to bring robotic surgery to Wales.

Prostate Cymru launched the campaign in earnest last year at the Llandow National Eisteddfod, and after keeping up a high-profile campaign, they were rewarded when the WG allocated the cash from its Health Technology Fund.

The first Welsh robot, which makes a big difference to the accuracy of a number of procedures, including prostate surgery, will be installed in the University of Wales Hospital, Cardiff.

Prostate Cymru grew out of another prostate charity, GLAZE, which was founded by Ray and Lyn Murray, from Cowbridge, and Andy Thomas, consultant in urology at the Princess of Wales Hospital.

Sadly, Ray Murray died in June, and failed to see the charity achieve its aim.

Angharad Jones, a spokeswoman for Prostate Cymru, said: "Earlier this month, as part of our campaigning, we presented a petition of over 2,000 signatures to the Petitions Committee of the Welsh Assembly.

"As a charity, we have worked tirelessly to bring a robotic unit to Wales – after all, there are over 40 in England.

"However, this success is tinged with sadness as our founder, Ray Murray, who worked tirelessly for this cause, did not live to see this moment.

"We know, however, that this campaign was successful because of his irrepressible nature, his charm and his can-do attitude.

"We also know that he would be proud of what his work has achieved. He was a true inspiration, and this robot is a symbol of his hard work, dedication and enthusiasm."

She said that the group will continue fundraising to help with the ancillary costs of the machine, such as training. They will also carry on raising awareness about the machine and the condition.

She added: "We would like to thank everyone who has supported us, especially Alun Cairns MP, Andrew RT Davies AM, Byron Davies AM, and everyone who signed the petition or donated."

Eluned Parrott, the Lib-Dem AM for South Wales Central, said: "I am extremely proud that the Welsh Liberal Democrats are once again making a difference to the lives of the people of south Wales.

"We proposed the idea of a Health Technologies Fund, as we wanted to offer patients better access to innovative treatments that were not routinely available on the Welsh NHS."

The Health Minister Mark Drakeford said: "Investment in innovation is essential if we are to achieve our aim of safe, sustainable and high-quality health services for Wales."

ABOVE: Prostate Cymru's robot surgery campaign was launched at last year's Eisteddfod. Founder Andy Thomas is pictured with the then Minister for Health and Social Services, Lesley Griffiths – and the Prostate Cymru robot!

Tennis team are promoted – once again!

AFTER gaining promotion to South Wales Premier Three last season, Dinas Powys Men's First team faced a tough year ahead in a higher league.

With a realistic target of staying in the division and avoiding relegation back to division one, the team started with tough fixtures against Llandybie and Aberaeron.

The team, made up of mainly local players struggled early with a win and loss respectively. However, from that moment on the team went on a roll, winning against strong opposition including Cardiff and VA Glamorgan.

They were soon in with a strong chance of finishing first or second – and gaining back to back promotions.

A loss at home to Aberaeron meant they had to settle for second position but still promotion was secured to Premier 2 for next summer's season.

The team has proved they can compete at a higher level and look forward to the challenge ahead next season, with stronger opponents, and hopefully they can go on to achieve promotion to Premier One.

Team members were: Luke Thomas, Matt Thomas, Andrew Kennedy, Sam Roberts, Alex Vowles, Paul Arcos, Tom Clack, Nick Chisnall and Gareth Hodges.

Guests receive a warm welcome at Brynhill Golf Club

ABOVE: The winners, Gareth Tinnuche and Nick Caulfield, with club captain Mike Moore.

A BRIGHT and breezy day welcomed the players to the annual members' and guests' day at Brynhill Golf Club.

A number of past Brynhill members returned as guests and everyone was welcomed by the club captain Mike Moore.

The course was presented in a magnificent condition, by the course manager Iain Grant and his greens staff.

Stories of past glories and disasters abounded around the clubhouse, as members and guests relaxed after their round.

The captain presented the winners with their prizes and thanked his vice captain, John Giles, and all the members who helped make it a successful day.

Results: First, Gareth Tinnuche and Nick Caulfield, 49 points; second, Ian Clemo and Neil Kelly, 45; third, Mike Moore Jnr and Rhys Collier, 4

JK

'Debt is a blight on the people's lives and payday loans must be capped'

DEBT is one of the reasons why people turn to the Vale Foodbank for support – it may be only once or for a few weeks while benefit payments are delayed or changed, or it may be the low incomes of those in work that forces people into debt.

The statistics for the Vale are reflected throughout the UK, where Foodbanks are meeting daily household needs, especially the needs of children.

We have now opened the third distribution centre for the Vale Foodbank, at Bethel Baptist Church in Llantwit Major.

It was heartening to see so many people at the launch from the churches and community in the western Vale who are willing to come forward and volunteer for the Foodbank in Llantwit.

I opened the first Vale Foodbank Centre at Coastal Community Church at the Colcot in September 2011. Last year, I opened the distribution centre at Bethesda Church in Dinas Powys which serves the eastern Vale.

At the opening of the Llantwit centre, the statistics were given about the need for the Foodbank in the Vale of Glamorgan but as the coordinator, Sue Lloyd-Selby, said, we would much rather not be opening Foodbanks in this day and age.

We need to look at the reasons why people need them and address the stresses in their lives, which includes the pressures of debt, as well as low incomes and benefit changes.

I am glad there has been recognition of the difficulties people are facing because of rising prices, low incomes and cuts in benefits.

Many people are forced to take out loans to help meet their daily bills. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has spoken out about payday lenders and the extortionate rates of interest that can be charged. He has put the spotlight on the worst practices that have been recorded.

Assembly Notes

by Vale AM
JANE HUTT
(Minister for Finance and Leader of the House)

He has also offered new opportunities for churches to use their buildings, which is clearly being taken up in Wales and for the importance of Credit Unions, which the Welsh Government is backing with funding and support.

The Vale of Glamorgan Citizens Advice Bureau undertakes vital work advising people who are in debt, working closely with the Vale Council, which has an active welfare reform group bringing voluntary and statutory agencies together to address the growing needs arising.

The Vale CAB has also undertaken a study of 'money shop practice' in Holton Road, Barry which has informed their work.

Within a short stretch of 321 metres, Holton Road houses seven separately trading money shops.

The Vale CAB study 'Easy Money, Easy Debt' undertook a 'mystery shop' study of the practises of these 'money shops' in Barry.

In their report, the Vale CAB says that *'the bureau is witnessing evidence of increased client hardship'* as a result of the growing number of money shops in Barry.

Although there was some evidence of good practice, the CAB report makes disturbing reading, which I am discussing with my colleagues in the Vale Council and the Welsh Government.

I will also be drawing this report to the attention of the OFT (Office of Fair Trading) and the UK Government, to call for swift action in support of Labour MP, Stella Creasy, who has campaigned tirelessly against irresponsible lending.

At the end of June, it was reported that a million households took out a payday loan in the previous month.

The evidence is clear – the payday sector is expanding, from around £900m in 2008 to £2bn today, and I back the calls for Payday loans to be capped, as we support our Advice Services and Credit Unions in the increasingly important roles to tackle this tidal wave affecting the poorest people in our communities.

Surveyors raised £5,000 for charities

BUILDING surveyors from the Vale Council have helped to raise more than £5,000 for two charities.

Members of the South Wales Local Authority Building Control Cymru groups, which includes the Vale council's surveyors, raised the money at their annual Building Excellence Awards event, hosted by BBC Wales news presenter Jamie Owen.

The surveyors raised £3,800 for Wales Air Ambulance and £1,635 for the Stroke Association through donations, auctions and raffles at the awards event.

The Vale council's director of development services, Rob Thomas, said: "LABC surveyors, including our team at the Vale, inspect buildings and deal with the construction industry daily, while promoting quality builders throughout Wales.

"The annual Building Excellence Awards give recognition to quality builders, which helps to get rid of cowboy builders and celebrates good workmanship.

"I'm very proud that, in addition to carrying out their daily duties, our surveyors at the Vale have put so much time and effort into raising money for these two worthy charities."

Mark Stevens, regional development manager for Wales Air Ambulance, said: "It is only through the support that we receive from the people of Wales that we are able to raise enough funds to keep us in the air over Wales and continue saving time and saving lives."

VILLAGE SHOW

THE popular Dinas Powys village show will take place on Saturday, August 31 at the Parish and Lee Halls, Dinas Powys.

There are 100-plus classes for all ages and interests from three years upwards. Contact the show chairman, Val Hartrey on 029 2951 3274 or valhartrey@talktalk.net for full details.

Attractions include music from the Dinas Powys Ecumenical Seven; bouncy castle and model railway and exhibits (both weather permitting); Punch and Judy shows; Owls 4 U and the very popular cakes and refreshments from the Dinas Powys WI.

DID YOU KNOW?
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Highlighting the need for 'some joined-up thinking'

I WAS surprised to hear Welsh Health Minister Mark Drakeford claim that the Welsh Ambulance Service should not be branded a "failing service", following repeatedly missed targets.

So if the ambulance targets are as he claims "blunt" and "clinically meaningless", just how are we supposed to monitor performance?

I am critical of this performance as just 62.6 per cent of category 'A' emergency responses have arrived at the scene within eight minutes – which is well below the target of 65 per cent.

I feel these results are deplorable and although the ambulance teams are doing their best in the circumstances, they are not providing the service they should be doing for patients.

There has to be an improvement in the way the service is operating, but to date, nothing.

There are clearly lessons to be learned as this is the 13th consecutive month that the target has been missed.

An effective ambulance service could mean a difference between life and death for patients.

DESERVE BETTER

I will not, therefore, accept that the eight-minute target is "meaningless" – and the people of Wales deserve better, instead of excuses for not meeting targets.

We really need an independent public inquiry into the recent failings in the Welsh NHS, including both heart care and the ambulance service.

How many more chief executives and Health Ministers are we going to see before our NHS is finally improved?

We need to see the highest quality and safe care provided by our NHS.

So perhaps it's time we saw some joined-up thinking in this area.

Coun Richard Bertin, ***(Independent, Vale Council)***

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. *'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'*

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Jack prompts fundraising effort for Bobath

STAFF from recruitment company, Smart Solutions, have picked up their paddles and canoed 20 miles to raise almost £5,000 for the Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales.

Twenty-three members of staff from the recruitment company, which has an office on Wyndham Street in Bridgend, tackled the Brecon and Monmouth Canal to canoe a 20 mile stretch, while a further 11 donned their walking boots to trek 10 miles, completing the route on foot.

Despite a wobbly start that saw some of the team take an unexpected summer-dip, all of the canoeists and walkers made it over the line, raising an impressive £4,825.

Smart Solutions chief executive, Nathan Bowles, said: "Canoeing 20 miles is no mean feat and I am really proud of the team who all made it over the finish line despite a few of us who struggled to stay upright in the beginning!

"It was a great day out and helped to bring the team, who are based across south Wales, together to raise money for a fantastic cause, and I would like to say thank you and well done to all canoeists and walkers who took part."

The company decided to raise money for the Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales after seeing the support and treatment that the charity provided to team member Deb Vincent and her two-year-old son, Jack.

Jack contracted meningitis when he was just four weeks old and suffered a series of mini strokes, resulting in brain damage leading to a diagnosis of Athetoid Cerebral Palsy.

When Jack was seven months old his family was referred to the Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales by their consultant paediatrician and the charity provided specialist physiotherapy and speech and language therapy to help Jack improve his core strength and oral skills.

It has agreed to fund treatment for Jack and already his parents have seen improvements. Jack is now able to sit unaided for a few seconds and be fed by hand, rather than through a tube.

As a result of the support that Bobath has given to Deb, Smart Solutions Recruitment has nominated it as their charity of the year and has committed to raising £21,000 for the cause over the next 12 months.

Mr Bowles said: "We have been genuinely touched by the generous, life-changing support that the Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales has shown. This is the first in a long line of fundraising initiatives that we'll be rolling out over the coming year, and we're already busy planning our next event which will be a themed fundraising dinner in Cardiff on November 23."

The Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales provides specialist therapy to children across Wales who have cerebral palsy. It is made up of three disciplines, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and speech and language therapy, and aims to give each child the skills to explore the world, communicate their needs and participate as much as possible in all aspects of their lives.

The charity treats more than 450 children in Wales each year and needs to raise over £1m every year to make this possible.

UK minister has tour of MoD St Athan

The Defence Minister and Vale MP Alun Cairns are pictured at the St Athan base.

DEFENCE Minister Mark Francois MP visited MoD St Athan to meet service personnel last week.

Accompanied by Vale MP, Alun Cairns, he was taken on a tour of the base.

Mr Cairns explained: "It was an opportunity for the Minister to hear first-hand the needs of families of the soldiers in terms of medical services and local schools, but also to see how the local community are welcoming the Special Forces personnel and families.

"I also wanted to take this opportunity to emphasise that contrary to recent reports, no date has been set for the transfer of RAF's No 4 Technical School from St Athan. This won't be for some years yet.

"My priority is to continue to support the expanding role and activities at the base. The arrival of the Royal Signals will be a boost to the community. If there is an increased military presence within the wire, then all communities in the area will benefit from their spend and presence," the MP maintained.

Airport shuttle welcomed

SOUTH WALES Central AM, Andrew RT Davies, has welcomed a new express bus service from Cardiff Airport to the city centre, and has said that getting the infrastructure right is "crucial if Cardiff is to compete with its Bristol rival".

It was a "sensible move that will make access to routes easier".

Mr Davies, who is Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, did, however, express concern that the loss of the X91 service could mean inconvenience for some passengers, given that the shuttle bus was likely to be more expensive, and to follow a different route.

He said: "Throughout the Vale, primarily rural services are being lost on an almost weekly basis. An express service is great news for the airport but the wider picture for everyday commuters remains challenging, and I'd like to see more being done by the Labour Welsh Government to focus on supporting vital bus routes."

Paralympian Simon urges families to 'GET GOING' this summer

Paralympic medal-winning cyclist, Simon Richardson MBE, is urging local families to take up the challenge of the Welsh Government's Change4Life campaign – to get children off the sofa and into action during the school summer holidays.

ABOVE: Simon Richardson

Voicing his support for the campaign, the Beijing record breaker has emphasised the importance of being active as a child, and is encouraging families to get out and about this summer.

The 46-year-old from Porthcawl, is supporting the Welsh Government's Change4Life campaign, entitled 'Get Going', which provides new cost-effective ideas to help families be more energetic over the coming weeks. These ideas have just been posted on the campaign website.

Simon, who won two golds and one silver medal at the Beijing Paralympic Games in 2008, said: "Getting outside and being active has always been a part of my life, both before and after my car accident. I've not let anything hold me back and I know from experience that getting exercise of any kind in the fresh air is so rewarding for the mind and body.

"I really recommend making the most of the summer to get active as a family. It really doesn't matter what you do – as long as it gets the heart pumping, that's what counts."

'Get Going' is promoting simple, low-cost or no-cost, informal activities and games designed to help children achieve a target of 60 active minutes a day and parents 150 minutes a week.

The initiative comes against the background of newly released figures from the Public Health Wales National child measurement programme showing that, in Wales, 28 per cent of four and five year olds had an unhealthy body mass index (BMI), with 12.5 per cent falling into the 'obese' category.

The Welsh Government aims to inspire both children and adults to change their behaviour and lead a more active life. Get Going, which is part of the wider Change4Life Wales campaign to improve the health of the nation, invites people to sign up online at www.change4lifewales.org.uk and discover low-cost ways of staying active this summer.

People First putting disability in spotlight

DISABILITY is not inability, was the theme of a Cardiff People First conference, which was joined by members of Vale People First, to discuss key issues affecting their lives with a learning disability.

The Vale AM, Jane Hutt, was present to give her support (above) and welcomed their 'views and contributions to raising awareness of disability issues".

HOLIDAY COUNSELLING SERVICE

ACTION for Children (*Gweithredu dros Blant*) is launching a weekly counselling drop-in service for young people in the Vale who are having difficulty coping with emotional issues during the school holidays.

Each Wednesday, young people aged between 11 and 18 will be able to access the charity's Vale school-based counselling service at The Hub, on Court Road, Barry until school starts again in September. No appointments are necessary.

Teresa Bezant, an Action for Children *(Gweithredu dros Blant's)* counsellor, said: "Following the success of our summer holiday drop-in service in Cardiff, we are now expanding into Barry and the Vale.

"We often see young people with issues relating to bereavement, depression or self-harm – and although the issues can be difficult to discuss, it can be a huge relief for the young person to speak to an impartial person about them.

"Our team offers a non-judgemental approach and confidential service. We would encourage any young person, who is feeling worried or troubled, to come and see us for a chat. You're not alone, there is support available."

For more information, contact Teresa on 02920 487356. Alternatively, if you want to make an appointment, text your name to 07879882745.

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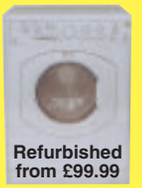

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Schools are praised for great garden projects

Pupils from Eagleswell Primary School collect their award.

Bute Cottage Nursery School.

Cadoxton Nursery School children

St Andrews Major Church in Wales Primary School.

THE Best Kept Village schools' competition was judged over two lovely sunny days in July, by two teams: Richard Skinner, Barbara Hodges, Irena Wasileska and Christine Kelly and Pam Robins.

The judges felt all schools are to be congratulated on the tremendous effort from the children and teaching staff.

Schools that have entered in previous years had improved and added new features.

CATEGORY A

First prize: St Andrews Major Church in Wales Primary School; second prize: Ashgrove School.

Joint third prize: All Saints Primary School, Barry; Dinas Powys Infants School; and Wick and Marcross Church in Wales Primary School.

Highly commended: Cogan Primary School; Eagleswell Primary School and Pendoylan Primary School.

CATEGORY B

First prize: Bute Cottage Nursery School; second prize: Eagleswell Nursery School.

Joint third prize: Cadoxton Nursery School and Cogan Nursery School.

Highly commended: Dinas Powys Infants – Nursery; Pendoylan Nursery School.

Some schools only have concrete yards in which to work, yet they managed to incorporate many innovative and interesting items.

The judges particularly loved the hairy caterpillars made from planted grass seed.

Several schools are now saving seed to grow next year, showing the children the importance of plant life cycles.

Recycling is an important aspect and items are recycled and re-used as a matter of course. Plant containers were made from used plastic milk cartons, broken toy storage boxes, old wellies and even lamp shades.

Composting was universal and water butts were used in most schools. Litter was virtually non-existent in all schools.

The winners were announced at a special event at Dyffryn Gardens when the winning schools were presented with their prizes. Judge Pam Robins said: "We were thrilled to see so many enthusiastic, happy children thoroughly enjoying working and playing in the gardens and learning all the time.

"Congratulations and well done to everyone – and don't forget to enter again next year!" **CA**

Local AM learns from BAMC apprentices

Eluned Parrott with BAMC staff.

WELSH Lib-Dem Shadow economy and transport minister, Eluned Parrott, became the first of the party's AMs to spend a day learning from apprentices, as part of the 'A Million Jobs for a Stronger Economy' campaign.

She spent a day as an apprentice at British Airways Maintenance Cardiff (BAMC) in Rhoose, where newly-qualified apprentice Steven Stolenzburg taught her how to service the hydraulics of a Boeing 777 engine.

The regional AM for South Wales Central also met British Airways' apprentices to discuss the benefits of being an apprentice and how the scheme can suit many people with different skills.

The Maintenance Facility, which is situated next to Cardiff Airport, employs 1,000 people, and carries out scheduled maintenance on British Airways fleet of Boeing 777 and 747 aircraft.

Vale brothers are cleared on 11 waste dumping charges

AT Cardiff Crown Court, two brothers have been cleared of illegally dumping waste on a farm in the Vale.

Natural Resources Wales brought the prosecution against Mr Nigel England, 50, of Pwll-y-Darren Farm, Welsh St Donats, and Mr Phillip England, 61, of New Road, Pencoed.

They were found not guilty of 11 charges. The jury could not reach a verdict on a remaining charge against their Siteserv waste management firm.

The prosecution had claimed that illegal material had been deposited in a field at Pwll-y-Darren Farm, Welsh St Donats..

The brothers argued that the field had been legally filled in with inert subsoil from a Cowbridge flood alleviation scheme and from their own quarrying operation, for which they had permission.

The prosecution has 14 days to decide whether to pursue the outstanding charge against Llandow-based Siteserv, which employs about 200 people.

A spokesperson from Natural Resources Wales said: "We have a duty to investigate possible illegal waste activities and prosecute where we believe an offence has been committed.

"Waste crime can harm the environment, impact on local communities and undermine legitimate business, so we will take action where appropriate."

'Beware this PPI refund scam' – *warning*

LOCAL residents are being warned about a new scam which targets people who may have been mis-sold Payment Protection Insurance (PPI) in the past.

Vale Trading Standards stated: "In most cases, consumers are contacted by phone and advised that they are owed a substantial sum of money. The scammers are often very convincing and hold the consumer's personal details, which adds to the authenticity of the call.

"The consumer is told it is quite simple to arrange this refund. All they need do is buy a Ukash Voucher for several hundred pounds to cover an administration fee so the company can process the refund.

"Ukash is a legitimate pre-paid electronic cash service which allows users to purchase money online after obtaining a code from the company."

After handing over the Ukash code to the scammers, the consumer is advised that a representative will visit their home shortly with a cash payment from the PPI refund.

"Of course, this never happens and once the code is disclosed to the scammers the money is cashed online", said Vale council's principal trading standards officer Christina Roberts-Kinsey.

"We warn consumers never to divulge personal information to unknown callers. Always refuse to make upfront payments to secure a financial gain, whether it be a refund, lottery win, prize draw or other such enticing offer."

If you have been a victim of fraud and wish to report it, contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040, or via their website on *www.actionfraud.police.uk*.

New deputy police chief takes over

Matt Jukes, Deputy Chief Constable of South Wales Police.

THE South Wales Police have announced the appointment of Matt Jukes as Deputy Chief Constable, who joined the force in 2010 as an Assistant Chief Constable responsible for specialist crime matters.

He has established a joint scientific support unit, leading several high profile counter terrorism operations and overseeing the regional organised crime unit, Tarian.

He takes over following Colette Paul's promotion to Chief Constable of the Bedfordshire Police force.

South Wales Chief Constable, Peter Vaughan said: "I have worked closely with Matt for the last three years, and know his vast amount of operational experience and expertise and his diverse knowledge and range of skills, are of great benefit to the force and the public of south Wales.

"As a senior member of my management team, Matt has played a key part in the performance improvements achieved over the last few years."

Lazarus rises – *again!*

AS part of the Government's Defence Review, with emphasis being placed on expanding our reserve forces, 614 Squadron (County of Glamorgan) Royal Auxiliary Air Force is to be resurrected in September.

The Squadron of original 'weekend flyers' flew out of the then Pengam airfield, Cardiff, in the 1930s – now a housing estate and Tesco 24-hour store – and in World War Two flew Spitfires and other aircraft in, inter alia, North Africa and Italy.

Disbanded in 1956, it was reformed as a Ground Defence Squadron, part of and trained by the RAF Regiment at RAF St Athan in 1987.

Disbanded again in 1989/90, like Lazarus it is arising from the dead and will be raised in Cardiff.

It will be an RAF Regiment Unit (Royal Aux Airforce) and will be joined by other similar units being formed elsewhere in the UK.

Christopher Short, Barry ***(ex RAF Regiment (R Aux AF) RAF St Athan)***

Tattooists and parents warned

PARENTS and tattooists are being warned about the law surrounding tattoos and children.

"Under the Tattooing of Minors Act 1969 it is a criminal offence to tattoo a child under the age of 18. Any tattoo artist, licensed or otherwise, found tattooing a child under the legal age could face criminal charges, and parents who give their consent, could also face criminal prosecution," said Marc Adams Jones, environmental health officer at the Vale Council. "Over the past few months, we have become aware of an increase in the number of home tattooists practising their art without being registered as tattoo studios and plying their trade on youngsters under the age of 18.

"The youngsters have been targeted whilst in school and we have received information relating to a number of 14 and 15-year-old females being tattooed unsupervised, in unhygienic conditions, in bedrooms and kitchens of domestic properties."

Guards' reunion

TO mark 25 years since Barry guards became redundant, I invite all involved with the railway in the local area, around October 1988, to a reunion in Wetherspoons, Barry, on Saturday, October 5 at 2pm. Please attend!

B.Harvey (Barry guard)

Contact 01446 74785

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Charity opera night

ENJOY a charity evening of Puccini and Prosecco at a charity opera night at Penarth Yacht Club in Penarth on Monday September 16; three course dinner and sparkling reception, serenaded by singers from Welsh National Opera. Tickets £29.50; proceeds to Welsh Hearts. Contact 07730944700, or fundraising@welshhearts.org.

Cadets tackle adventure training at Tor Y Foel

AIR Cadets from 372 (Barry) Squadron, recently travelled to the Brecon Beacons for a day of exciting and challenging adventurous training.

The aim was to prepare Cadets for their forthcoming Duke of Edinburgh expeditions to a competent degree of navigation, team building skills and understanding the country code.

The walk itself was of moderate difficulty, 10 kilometres in distance, and gave younger Cadets a real taste of the outdoors. The route started from Talybont Reservoir travelling up and around to Tor Y Foel (a total ascent of 1,000 feet within a short distance.)

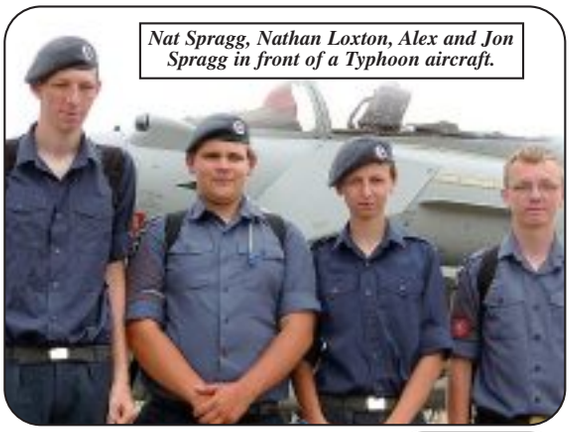
The group worked very well, encouraging and assisting each other throughout the day. At times throughout the day, the weather was very hot; however, from the summit the Cadets had clear views of the Beacons and Sugar Loaf in the distance.

Training forms a very important part of the Cadet's life. It covers teambuilding, leadership, mountain craft, camp craft, safety training and navigation before going on the hills.

Cadet Lisa Niering said: "Tor Y Foel was hard, I didn't think I would make it to the top. I tried really hard and eventually when I got to the top, I was really excited. The views were amazing".

The cadets on the walk were: Pippa and Jack Cowles, Lisa Niering, Jo Bailey, Nathan Farmer, Georgina and Ellie Poulakis.

Cadets are now looking forward to an action-packed programme of flying, gliding, shooting, sports, training camps, visits and expeditions.



Nat Spragg, Nathan Loxton, Alex and Jon Spragg in front of a Typhoon aircraft.

CADETS AT AIR TATTOO

AIR Cadets from 372 (Barry) Squadron, recently travelled to the Royal International Air Tattoo at RAF Fairford to see the world's largest military airshow.

Few events can rival the intensity, drama and spectacle on offer at the world's greatest airshow. The Air Tattoo not only includes thrilling flying action from over 250 aircraft from air forces around the world, but the cadets were also treated to non-stop entertainment on the ground with many interactive displays.

They saw many impressive displays including the F16 Fighting Falcon, Tornado, Typhoon, the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, the Red Arrows and the French, Spanish and Italian aerobatic display teams.

The Italian Air Force acrobatic team 'Frecce Tricolori Display team', also put on an amazing display of their flying skills.

Cadet Rhys Williams said: "The flying displays were really cool. My favourite display was seeing the Red Arrows. The whole day was amazing."

Cadets attending were: Jamiee-Lee Bird, Jack and Pippa Cowles, Amy Gilpin, Rhys Horton, Kieren Long, Nathan Loxton, Ellie, Zena and Georgina Poulakis, Rhys Williams, Nat and Jon Spragg, Steven Denner and Jonny Ball.

The Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays, 7pm – 9.30pm, behind Adams Funeral Parlour (by the Memorial Hall) or you can phone the Squadron on 01446 747734, email oc.372@aircadets.org or visit www.372squadron.org for more information.

JASON HORTON

Pippa and Jack Cowles

DAVE REYNOLDS HONOURED AT BEAR HOTEL

Much-loved colleague says farewell to GEM

A special celebration honouring one of The Glamorgan GEM's long-serving employees, Dave Reynolds, was held at The Bear Hotel, Cowbridge, on Friday, August 9.

Dave (65) a popular and invaluable member of The GEM's production team, was retiring after 50 years in the print and newspaper industry.

An Aberdare man "born and bred", Dave worked on newspapers all over south Wales – in Merthyr, Caerphilly, Bridgend and latterly Cowbridge.

During his 50 years in the industry, he witnessed the changes from 'hot metal' to 'paste-up' and on to computerised technology.

Dave said that he is looking forward to spending more time with his eight grandchildren and tinkering with the many motorbikes populating his garage.

GEM Editor, Don John, commented: "We are all very sorry to see Dave leave. He has been one of our most highly-regarded members of staff, a talented graphic designer with a modest and patient manner that has endeared him to his colleagues.

"He will be sadly missed, but we all wish him well as he begins a very well-earned retirement."

The head of production at The GEM, Lloyd Jones, said: "Dave and I have worked together for 20 years and I couldn't have wished for a better colleague.

"No one could have been more helpful, and everyone at The GEM will miss him."

TRC

Dave at the Bear Hotel, blowing out the candles on his retirement cake.

THE DRAGON AT MAMETZ WOOD

by GAVIN DAVIES

AT about 8.30am on Friday July 7 1916, the Cardiff City and 1st and 2nd Gwent battalions attacked the eastern face of Mametz Wood.

The wood was held by one of the best units in the Imperial German army and a smokescreen, intended to screen the attackers from machinegun fire from Flatiron Copse, in what was to become known as 'Death Valley', failed to materialise.

As a result, the attack failed, with heavy casualties, none of our troops getting to within two hundred yards of the wood.

Among those who died, were Capt J L Williams of the Welsh Regiment who captained the Welsh rugby side and played for the British Lions, Lieut Pryce-Hamer of the South Wales Borderers, a Welsh soccer international, and Lieuts Arthur and Leonard Tregaskis, who had emigrated to Canada, but returned when war broke out.

Their first attack had failed. Between 4am and 4.30am on Monday July 10, two Battalions from north Wales, the Swansea Pals and the 2nd Rhondda, made a second attack against the south face of the Wood.

Col Carden of the 16th Royal Welsh Fusiliers led an impromptu service and said: "Boys, make your peace with God. We are going to take that position and some of us won't come back. But we are going to take it."

Then he tied a handkerchief to his walking stick saying: "This will show you where I am," and led the battalion forward.

He was hit twice and then killed, as his men broke into the German positions.

For the rest of the day, the Welsh troops fought their way slowly forward through Mametz Wood. By nightfall, it was in their hands.

ABOVE:
The Welsh Memorial at Mametz.

Capturing the wood cost the Division 602 killed, 585 missing (many of whom would also be dead) and 2,816 wounded, about one-third of their infantry strength.

In 1985, a committee of the south Wales branch of the Western Front Association, decided to build a memorial at Mametz Wood. A sub-committee raised the necessary funds and commissioned David Peterson to make a statue of a dragon.

The memorial, which carries the inscription 'Parchwn eu hymdrechion parhaed ein hatgofion' (We revere their endeavours. May we continue to remember), was dedicated on the 71st anniversary of the battle and the 25th anniversary of the dedication was marked by a service last year.

The south Wales branch are still responsible for maintaining the memorial and have recently launched an appeal to have the Dragon repainted and the plinth and site refurbished for the centenary of the capture of Mametz Wood in 2016.

The Welsh Assembly Government has made a generous donation, but more money is still needed.

To help the appeal, Cor Meibion de Cymru have arranged a concert on Saturday, September 21, in the Royal Welsh College of Drama. Tickets (£12 and £10) are available from the college (Tel 02920 391391 email *Boxoffice@rwcmd.ac.uk* Ms Jane Benjamin of the south Wales branch (email *mutiny1917@hotmail.com*) and Roger Hopkin of Cor Meibion De Cymru (email *rands.hopkin135@btinternet.com*). We would urge everyone to support what will be a first class concert in aid of a cause close to the heart of everyone in Wales.

FRACKING:

'Wales is following Westminster's lead'

– Friends of the Earth

THE Welsh Government has refuted claims by Friends of the Earth Cymru that it has "turned down the opportunity to protect communities from the threat of fracking, and will instead follow the pro-fracking lead from Westminster".

FoE said this week that Minister for Planning Carl Sargeant AM could introduce stricter planning controls on drilling for shale gas, but in a letter stated he would only act to protect communities in Wales if legislation is changed to do so in England.

"Fracking can pollute groundwater, has already caused earthquakes in England, and can potentially have even higher climate emissions than coal," said Gareth Clubb, director of FoE Cymru.

"Communities right across Wales are crying out for the Welsh Government to stand up and do something to protect them from fracking. Instead it's decided to wait for changes to be made in England – if they happen at all.

"This makes a mockery of devolution. Instead of considering the particular circumstances in Wales and protecting Welsh communities, our Government is hanging on the coat-tails of the most pro-fracking government in Europe.

"Devolution means we can follow a path that best serves the people of Wales. With areas in Swansea, Bridgend, Neath, Rhondda, Wrexham and Newport already licensed for fracking, the Welsh Government must be prepared to listen to communities here, and not just wait for the politicians in Westminster to decide.

"There's plenty of expert evidence that fracking won't lead to cheaper fuel bills, but it will keep us hooked on dirty fuels and destroy any chance of tackling our climate change emissions.

"Wales has some of the best renewable energy resources on the planet – instead of this obsession with digging up our towns and countryside for every last drop of fossil fuel, we should get on with the job of being at the forefront of a clean industrial revolution."

ASSEMBLY RESPONSE

However, a Welsh Government spokesperson said: "Friends of the Earth are absolutely wrong in their assertion. We take decisions based upon the best interests of the people of Wales and in doing so we take account of the issues which will affect local communities in Wales.

"However as Friends of the Earth know, the process of granting UK exploration licences, well consents and field development consents for shale gas is a matter for the UK Government.

"Any operator proposing to either explore or extract shale gas in Wales will also have to obtain the necessary planning permission from the local planning authority.

"Given the challenges of energy security and supply, we understand there is a need to look at the potential of this type of energy resource. However, there is also a need to fully consider all the evidence relating to both the exploration and potential commercial development of shale gas, and particularly any impacts on communities and the environment.

"We will continue to engage with the UK Government and the regulators to ensure a robust evidence-based policy framework is in place for unconventional gas in the UK."

Find us on Twitter - follow us @gem_news

Car wash for charity ride

THINKVANS.COM Limited carried out a charity car wash in aid of the company's plan to enter a team in this year's British Heart Foundation's London to Paris cycle ride. The team are aiming to raise £250 for the charity.

"The car wash raised an amazing £445 and was a huge success. The team would like to thank all those that supported the event and donated in a most generous way. They are aiming to have another car wash in late August, as a final push to try and break the fundraising target," said spokesperson Rhian Frewin.

PACT meetings

LLANDOW/EWENNY PACT, *Ewenny Village Hall, on Wednesday, August 21 at 7pm.*

BUTTRILLS PACT*, Philip John Community Room, Barry Library, on Thursday, August 22 at 6pm.*

WENVOE *coffee and chat meeting at the Wenvoe Arms on August 22 at 11am.*

GARDENS OPEN

PENYLAN Gardens, Penylan, Cardiff, CF23 5BD, will be open to the public on Sunday (August 18) from 2pm to 6pm. Admission £4.

Penylan is a Victorian suburb of mostly terraced houses with small gardens and many parks.

The seven gardens show a variety of ways of adding interest and individuality to a small space including Mediterranean-style sunny patio areas, informal mix of cottage plants, a riot of exotic foliage, stone walled south-east facing cottage garden offering colour and peace away from the busy main road and a bijou terrace garden profusely planted with an abundance of unusual and exotic plants.

Victoria Thornton and Pat and Mel Griffiths are regular winners in the Cardiff in Bloom competition.

The new gardens feature a surprisingly large city garden with deep flower beds, ponds and a dove cote; a postage stamp sized garden where trees provide an architectural framework with shade-loving plants packed beneath; a natural garden with ferns, lavender and bay trees.

Please note: not all gardens are within walking distance. Maps showing the gardens will be available.

AT LAST, WALES SEES THE LIGHT

READER'S VIEW

IT is a delight to see that the Welsh NHS has finally realised that 21st Century technology, in the form of Robotic Assisted Laparoscopic Prostatectomy, is appropriate for Welsh men.

That their English NHS counterparts saw the light some years ago is, of course, a disappointing fact. As is the fact that so many Welshmen have paid to have NHS treatment of this kind in England, the Welsh Government having declined funding in a timely fashion.

They have been both dismissive and tardy in their correspondence with concerned individuals and groups. Not for nothing have I coined the phrase 'bureaucratababble'.

Readers will know of the significant contribution of Prostate Cymru and, in particular, the late Ray Murray, who was a founding trustee, made to the debate. We owe Ray a huge debt of gratitude.

It is no small consideration for Welsh politicians to note that the recent Prostate Cymru-sponsored petition had signatures from every single Welsh constituency, supporting the need for this technology.

With the decision made, we now need to see urgent and focussed action, in order to get this technology into action as soon as possible.

Oh, and if you are a man over 50 years of age, do have a discussion with your healthcare provider about PSA.

Professor Kevin Davies MBE.
Cowbridge.

Out and About with The GEM

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

Cadets' AGM

ON September 24, Penarth Sea Cadets are holding their annual general meeting at the Sea Cadet Hall, Stanwell Crescent, Penarth, at 7pm. All are welcome to the open meeting.

Keep Wales Tidy celebrates

KEEP Wales Tidy is hosting a fundraising gala dinner to conclude its 40th anniversary celebrations on Wednesday, October 30 at the Vale Hotel and Spa Resort in Hensol.

Welsh TV presenter Sian Thomas will compere the event and Keep Wales Tidy ambassador Tom Shanklin, who recently took part in a fundraising bike ride for the charity will also appear.

"Keep Wales Tidy's fundraising gala dinner will be the perfect occasion to round off its 40th anniversary and raise money so that we can continue to support communities across Wales. I'm looking forward to meeting Keep Wales Tidy staff, volunteers and partners on the night," she commented.

For full details contact the fundraising team on 029 2025 6767 or south@keepwalestidy.org.

Family fun weekend

DYFFRYN Gardens will be open for a family fun weekend on August 17 – 18 from 11am – 4pm each day.

Children can play games on the lawn, have a bounce on the bouncy castle and have their faces painted, making 'butterflies' in the house and creating a giant flower.

Around the Bay swim

ON Saturday, August 17 at 3pm Porthcawl Lifeguard Club holds its around the Bay swim at Coney beach, Porthcawl.

This open water event is open to all competent swimmers and there are two courses. The long course is from the beach start line to a marker buoy near the pier and back again. The shorter course will be a one-way swim to the harbour slipway.

Registration is at 2pm at the club house on Rhych point overlooking Coney beach. Entry fee will be £15 for the long course and £10 for the short course and all swimmers will receive hot soup and a roll after the swim. There will also be a barbecue.

Ward surgery

THE Labour Vale and town councillors for Buttrills and Court wards, Bronwen Brooks, Pamela Drake, Jeff Evans and Stuart Egan, will be holding their regular, monthly advice surgery this Saturday, August 17 from 10am until 11.30am, in the meeting room of Barry Library Kings Square. No appointment necessary.

Fair at St Mary Hill

CENTURIES-OLD St Mary Hill Fair will be held on the common between Pencoed and Heol-y-Cyw on bank holiday Monday, August 26 from 10am until 4pm.

Traders from all over the country sell horses, poultry, fine china and leather goods.

Each year the fair supports a local charity. Unfortunately, in 2012 the fair was cancelled due to exceptionally bad weather but in 2011 a cheque for £3,500 was presented toMacmillan Cancer Nurses.

Parking on the common will cost £5 per vehicle and two large car parks will be open.

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John Rhys Davies at Maesteg Town Hall

RIGHT: Legendary Welsh screen actor John Rhys Davies.

LORD OF THE RINGS' Welsh actor John Rhys-Davies is to appear at a Q & A charity event in Maesteg Town Hall tonight, Thursday, August 15, at 7pm.

John shot to fame in 1980, when he starred with Richard Chamberlain in the hit TV mini-series *Shogun*.

Since then he's racked up an impressive list of credits, including the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, the Indiana Jones films, *The Untouchables* and *The Living Daylights*.

He agreed to take part in the Q & A event to support a local charity, the Llangynwyd Community Association, which is raising funds to help members renovate their new village hall after the previous structure burned down 13 years ago.

A spokeswoman for the event told The GEM: "The Q&A session will be a rare opportunity to meet the acclaimed actor.

"Younger viewers will recall his villainous viscount in *Princess Diaries* 2, and older members may recall him in *Budgie, I Claudius,* and *The Naked Civil Servant* – so there will be plenty to discuss!"

There will be the chance to have a photo taken with John at 7pm, followed at 7.30pm by the Q & A session, and an opportunity for autographs at the end.

There will be a small charge for photos and autographs with proceeds going to Llangynwyd Community Association.

For tickets, ring 01656 733269 or 07790 314 883. Tickets will also be available on the door. For more information on the event, contact Lesley Grantham-Brooks on 01656 730 185.

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Classic car club's 21 years supporting Bobath cause

SOUTH Wales Classic Car Club (SWCC) continued its relationship with Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales by presenting the charity with a cheque for £1,500 at its 30th birthday celebrations last night.

SWCCC has supported Bobath Wales for over 21 years, donating tens of thousands of pounds to the charity that provides specialist therapy to children who have cerebral palsy.

Since the first classic car show took place in 1986, the show has grown into one of the premier events in the country, with exhibitors coming from all over Wales, England and Ireland.

Gail Griffiths, Bobath Wales' fundraising manager, said: "We are very grateful to the past and present committee and club members of the SWCCC for its dedicated commitment and fundraising efforts that make such a difference to all the children who attend Bobath Wales. We can't thank them enough!"

For further information on any Bobath Wales events, fundraising, or to become a volunteer, contact the fundraising team on fundraising@bobathwales.org, call 02920 522600 or visit www.bobathwales.org.

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Forget the rumours... The Lone Ranger rides proudly into blockbuster season!

YOU could count on the fingers of a one-handed man the amount of times Johnny Depp has played a straight role, the actor seemingly pre-occupied with charting the weird and the wonderful through the likes of Willy Wonka, Edward Scissorhands, and, of course, Captain Jack Sparrow, something that audiences are, even now, still lapping up.

With this in mind, Depp's latest film sees him star as Tonto in *The Lone Ranger*, where Armie Hammer plays the titular character, who, returned from the dead (thanks to Tonto), becomes a masked vigilante, chasing down Butch Cavendish (William Fichtner); but Cavendish's misdeeds are the smaller part of a larger plan that the pair will need to foil...

For any producer, director or actor to attempt a popcorn Western, there are three words that will put a chill in your boots and blow your stetson clean off – *Wild Wild West*.

The Will Smith-starring misfire may be 14 years old, but is still spoken of in hushed tones; so when Gore Verbinski (director of the first three *Pirates of the Caribbean* films) reteams with Johnny Depp to have a crack, surely this pair who, together and separately, have made cinema box offices overfill, can't go wrong?

Well, if you believe the American box office and many critics, the pair have made a misstep so severe that nothing can save it from total ignominy.

However, given that this is the same country to make *Grown Ups 2* a box office success, hopefully it will find a fairer response on this side of the pond.

It certainly deserves it, the film an enjoyable popcorn thrill ride that packs plenty of invention, spectacle and humour into an admittedly overlong running time – but come the end credits, gives you the feeling you've been watching a genuine summer blockbuster.

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

Quite why the critics have been so harsh is confusing – maybe Depp's critic-proof box office success has something to do with it – but you can't find fault with the performances from the leads, with both Depp and Armie Hammer mightily impressive.

The former may be on similar nutty territory to some of his previous roles, but there is plenty more restraint and subtlety in his performance.

Tonto isn't a caricature, more a comedy character with depth and weight behind him, and Depp's physically-impressive comedic performance, with shades of Buster Keaton, is a pleasure to watch.

The same can be said for Hammer: underneath his matinee looks, lies an actor of real resolve and he gives the title character a gritty determination and purpose – but with that an ability to play the comedy to perfection.

Sharing a wonderful double act with Depp, he is half of a superb pairing.

The rest of the cast – from villainous William Fichtner and love interest Ruth Wilson to Tom Wilkinson's shady rail man – all play their parts well, but with the focus on the lead pair, they don't get much more to do than deliver solidly entertaining performances.

Gore Verbinski certainly knows his way around a blockbuster and he gives *The Lone Ranger* a wonderful sense of spectacle, taking the generic elements of the western and giving them a bit of an edge. His ability to marry action spectacle and humour plays incredibly well.

The care and attention the set-pieces have been given is, at times, truly breathtaking; in particular, a grandstanding climax that is easily one of the best sequences offered up this summer in terms of invention and execution.

Certainly, the story stretches a familiar conceit to almost breaking point (it seems narrative is still Verbinski's Achilles heel) while the film is definitely about 30 minutes too long, but if you can overlook these slightly indulgent aspects, you'll find plenty to enjoy about *The Lone Ranger*, a film most undeserving of the critical brickbats aimed at it.

VERDICT: A perfect summer thrill ride, with spectacle, humour and an enjoyable sense of zest and zeal, *The Lone Ranger* is a very entertaining blockbuster. Pilloried unfairly by critics and the American box office, there is plenty to commend here, from Johnny Depp and Armie Hammer's excellent performances, to some wonderful set-pieces. *Recommended.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Pirates of the Caribbean* (2003), *The Mask Of Zorro* (1998).

Open day offers a chance to meet cats and kittens

CATS Protection's Bridgend Adoption Centre is holding a pirate-themed open day on August 17, 10.30am – 4pm; and it promises to be a fun day out for all of the family.

The staff will be dressed in pirate costume to welcome visitors. Attractions include a treasure hunt, stalls, raffle, tombola, barbecue, fresh cakes, bouncy castle, refreshment, face painting and much more.

Children can join in the fun by dressing up in costume, and a prize will be given to the best fancy dress.

Special guests will be the Mayor of Bridgend county borough, Coun Clive James, and the Mayoress Coun Pauline James. Visitors can also meet the many loving and adorable cats in the centre's care. They include Blackbeard, a five-week-old male kitten and Captain, an eight-week-old kitten.

MEET THE CAPTAIN!

MEET BLACKBEARD!

Sue Dobbs, the centre manager said: "The open day is a great opportunity to enjoy some summertime fun while supporting the charity which finds new homes for the many unwanted and abandoned cats that come into its care".

Admission is £1 for adults, 50p for children and under 3s are free.

For more information about the open day and/or directions, visit www.bridgend.cats.org.uk or call 01656 724396.

Appeal launched to save the 'Balmoral'

THE future of the Balmoral, a member of Britain's officially recognised National Historic Fleet, is under threat amidst fears that the vintage excursion ship may never sail again.

The ship, which is currently moored in Bristol City Docks, has not sailed since 2012 and will not sail again unless £350,000 is raised to secure its future.

A combination of issues, including poor weather in the summer of 2012, prevented the ship from sailing this year.

A fundraising campaign has now been launched called 'Save the Balmoral' with £350,000 urgently needed to ensure the ship returns to the waters off south Wales, Somerset and Devon.

The Balmoral has carried over two million passengers in the 27 years since it was restored to passenger service by a charity.

Members of the public can volunteer to help with fundraising activities, or make a donation by visiting *www.mvbalmoral.org.uk*

Showing an interest in the Sully U3A

THE Sully U3A recently held a successful open meeting when, instead of a speaker at its August meeting, interest groups talked about what they do when they meet.

Sully U3A has nearly 20 interest groups, including badminton, book club, bridge, circle dancing, computing, creative writing, discussion, family history, knitters and stitchers, local history, luncheon club, natural healing, quiz, recorders, photography, singing, table tennis and walking.

The knitters and stitchers attracted a lot of attention. There was an array of their individual work, with their joint project as the centrepiece. Recently, members pooled ideas for working on something together and came up with creating a garden.

Everyone contributed flowers, leaves, insects and utensils in knitting and crochet and the finished project was enjoyed by everyone.

As well as attracting a large number of members, 10 new members were recruited to U3A during the afternoon, bringing the present membership to 210 since Sully U3A formed two years ago.

Sully U3A meets on the second Thursday of the month at The Old School, South Road, Sully, at 2pm – new members welcome.

SC

YFC reunion

GLAMORGAN Young Farmers Clubs are inviting past and present members to join them at a reunion evening on August 30 at the Grove Golf Club, Porthcawl.

With thriving Young Farmers Clubs in Maendy, Wick, Bridgend, Gelligaer and Llantrisant, Neath and Gower, the hope is that past members from across the 'old' Glamorgan county will join current members to celebrate the success of this young people's movement.

With over 240 members, and often getting national success in competitions as well as its 75th anniversary in 2014, the Glamorgan reunion will be a warm-up for the big celebration.

Tickets from Mared Williams on 07792 373934.

Did you know you can find The GEM on Twitter?
@gem_news

WI'S CHEQUE FOR TY HAPUS

FRIENDS of Barry Women's Institute held a coffee morning at Highlight Community Hall, Barry for Ty Hapus.

It was a great success and the ladies would like to thank all who attended, including the Mayor of Barry, Mayor of the Vale and consort.

Thank you also to all the ladies who worked hard to make this a success. A cheque for £500 will be presented to a representative of Ty Hapus at the September meeting.

JC

Another great Glamorgan GEM competition!

Summer is set to sizzle thanks to living life alfresco!

The 17th Gastro Alfresco promotional campaign is back and this time it's bigger and better than ever!

The sampling RoadShows will once again be touring throughout the summer, with onboard Chefs and Brand Believers inviting you to 'Come to the Gastro garden-party' running until mid September.

The RoadShows will be visiting Tesco Extras and Sainsburys up and down the country where talented on-board chefs will be creating a selection of delicious dishes. Shoppers will also be able to sample products from brands including . . .

Boursin, Brancott Estate,Encona, New York Bagels, San Miguel Fresca, Shloer and Starbucks

Brighten your summer with a Gastro Alfresco Goodibox!

Lots to be won in this easy to enter competition!

No one can dispute that the British summer can be unpredictable, but with this simple Gastro Alfresco competition there's no need to worry about the weather when you could win a Goodibox jam-packed with delicious products from our sponsors.

This year's Gastro Alfresco is supported by some high profile brands, including: Boursin - cheese; Brancott Estate - wine; Encona - hot pepper sauces; New York Bagels; San Miguel Fresca - lager; Shloer - soft drinks; Starbucks- chilled coffee.

So just answer this simple question and you could be tucking into some tasty treats!

HOW MANY YEARS HAS GASTRO ALFRESCO BEEN RUNNING? A) 1 B) 6 C) 17

You can find out more about how to enjoy life alfresco including great recipes, blogs and tips on our website

www.gastro-alfresco.com

Like us on Facebook, follow on Twitter @gastroalfresco and watch us on YouTube.

Send your entries to ***Gastro Competition****, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.*

Closing date August 23rd, 2013.

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Special Rural Profile

VALE OF GLAMORGAN AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Wednesday 21st August - FONMON CASTLE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO PUBLIC...

'THE VALE SHOW IS FOR ALL IN THE COMMUNITY'

THE Vale of Glamorgan Show to be held at Fonmon Castle on Wednesday, August 21, is one of the key rural and agricultural events in the summer calendar.

I am delighted to be the Show president this year and although not a farmer myself, I come from a farming background – with grandfather, uncle and brother all previously, or currently, in agriculture.

I am keeping everything crossed for fine weather, which makes show preparation much easier and the day itself more enjoyable.

From stock judging to show jumping, food halls, machinery, floral crafts and many other attractions, the occasion offers something for everybody and all ages, whether you are from a rural background, or not.

I sincerely hope that as many of you as possible will find time to attend.

A huge amount of time and effort goes into organising the show and I would personally like to thank those involved for their hard work, and hope that they are rewarded by a good turn-out and fine weather.

Roger Thomas, FRICS
(Chairman, Cooke & Arkwright)

ABOVE:
The Vale Show president, Roger Thomas.

Fonmon Castle

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Taking up a royal theme at Cardiff Airport's marquee

THE 2013 Vale Show is approaching once again and the Cardiff Airport Marquee of home produce, floral crafts, and children's competitions will again have many attractions for you to visit and enjoy.

We have introduced the royal christening to the competitions this year with the Chairman's Cup competition titled "A Christening Tea', and also in the general cookery competitions 'A Christening Celebration Cake' .

For the flower arrangers, there is a table centre to celebrate the christening tea.

The babies' bonnet competition, to be donated to a local premature baby unit, is also very popular as many competitors donate their extra entries as well.

The two local schools entering the handwriting competition this year are St David's Church in Wales School, Colwinston and St Nicholas Church in Wales School.

We look forward to welcoming you to our marquee, which opens to the public at 12.30pm after the judging has taken place.

Schedules are available from the Secretary, Janet Lewis on ***01443 225202,*** *or on the Vale Show Web Site.*

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Special Rural Profile

VALE OF GLAMORGAN AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Wednesday 21st August - FONMON CASTLE

A RICH VARIETY OF DELIGHTS AT THE CRAFT FAIR

IT is almost Showtime again and preparations for all the sections are now well under way.

This year's craft fair is promising its usual delights and variations of work.

Most of the stand holders who have attended for so many years will be with us again; they tell me each year it is their favourite craft fair...

We can look forward to seeing new crafters – which means that the effort, talent and time to produce their specific items of craft are still appreciated by the public.

For that special gift, or treat for oneself, the choice will be plentiful: Tina Drakes, from Cardigan, will be tempting us all again with her wonderful bee products: different types of honey, and excellent facial and hand creams.

David Bailey,from Powys, will be exhibiting and selling prints and cards of his amazing Welsh wildlife photography.

NEW FACES

A new local basket-maker will be with us, and she will be demonstrating some of her work.

Miranda Bowen, from Carmarthenshire, will again be exhibiting her beautiful art – her main subjects being farm animals and pets.

Another new exhibitor will be Robi Mandley from Longtown, in Herefordshire who makes some beautiful items from her own angora goats' wool.

Also on display and for sale will be the usual high- quality turned woodwork, slate work, pewter items, fretwork, pottery, children's knitwear, baby and nursery items, cushions made from recycled Welsh blankets, footrests in animal shapes, coin jewellery and silver and enamelled jewellery.

This year, the craft marquee may be situated nearer the horticultural marquee and it will be open from 9.30am – 6pm.

ANNE ARNOTT
(Secretary/organiser)

Chairman offers a warm welcome to Vale Show

AS Chairman of the Vale of Glamorgan Show, I have the pleasure of endorsing a great day out for all the family.

The show is the oldest , unrivalled outdoor event in the Vale, having been established in 1772 and still retains many traditional features – cattle and sheep rings with the best livestock in the area on show – and horse and pony competitions including show jumping.

The horticulture tent has flower, vegetables and children's competitions, with many colourful, creative displays. The craft fair always has that individual gift for someone.

The KC-registered dog show is the largest in south Wales, with over 500 dogs on show.

There is also the Birket LGA Shopping Mall, Cooke & Arkwright Food Hall, Cardiff Airport home Ppoduce marquee and many more displays, not forgetting the varied trade stands that support the show annually.

The Grand Parade of livestock and horses will be followed with The Kangaroo Kids quad bike display, which promises to be an exciting spectacle.

Don't miss the Road Train, which every year is an attraction to the young and not so young for a fun ride around the showground.

RAY THOMAS

Chairman Ray Thomas and family are looking forward to the show.

'Royal award' for Laleston farmer

BRIDGEND farmer and longstanding Royal Welsh official, Dilwyn Thomas, was presented with a Silver Armada dish by Prince Charles during the Royal Welsh Show (above).

The award and a subsequent special Royal Welsh Agricultural Society award was in recognition of Dilwyn's 45 years service to the show.

He has retired this year as Assistant Honorary Director for horses with the RWAS. Mr Thomas, who farms in Laleston, was "thrilled" with the award and spent some time discussing horses and his show career with the royal visitor.

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Special Rural Profile

VALE OF GLAMORGAN AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Wednesday 21st August - FONMON CASTLE

The friendly rivalry and camaraderie that draws thousands to the Vale

THE Vale of Glamorgan Show is an all-round, one-day traditional county show, with friendly rivalry, camaraderie, and a lively atmosphere...

Over 20,000 spectators and entrants come from all over the country to visit the show, which will take place on Wednesday, August 21, in Fonmon Castle grounds near Cardiff Airport.

The Kangaroo Kids are the main attraction in the ring, performing quad bike stunts to thrill us all.

There will be horse classes in the ring from 8.30am, culminating in the Grand Parade of prizewinning animals at 3pm. Cattle, sheep and dog show classes take place in different areas of the field; there are also ducks, chickens and pigs on show.

The craft fair is renowned as an excellent event in itself; Mrs Arnott has been in charge for over 40 years, only allowing exhibitors who produce all their own craft.

The Cooke & Arkwright food hall has some excellent produce this year, with a number of new exhibitors selling among other things, cheese, wine and a variety of cakes and bread.

We are delighted that Birkett LGA have agreed to sponsor the shopping mall this year.

This marquee is full of a variety of small trader stalls, an excellent place to purchase gifts and household items of all discriptions.

With another 200 trade stands throughout the field, there is truly something to interest everyone in the family.

For the youngsters, there is a fairground, circus workshops, face painting, and Punch and Judy shows.

Why not compete at the event? There are schedules available for the home produce marquee, with competitions to include cooking, sewing, craft work as well as many children's competitions.

The horticultural show also runs a huge variety of competitions for the amateur and professional gardener – again, there are many children's classes.

Schedules for all the events held at the show are to be found on ***www.valeofglamorganshow.co.uk***

For further information, telephone 01446 710099.

NICOLA GIBSON
(General Secretary)

LEAPING INTO LEGEND...
The Kangaroo Kid!

WE look forward to seeing the Kangaroo Kid perform at 4 pm in the main show ring on August 21 at Fonmon Castle.

The Kangaroo Kid is one of the most prolific stunt riders in the world today.

He has performed some of the most dangerous jumps possible, breaking records and performing stunts that were once the preserve of legends such as Evel Knievel.

Matt has jumped countless objects, including an RAF Phantom jet – 14 lorries and a flying airplane.

He will team up with his son, Sam, at Fonmon – to bring a brand new show to the circuit.

It promises to be a terrific display of quad biking skill – a real spectacle to watch and enjoy!

The Kangaroo Kid in action.

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Meet rugby stars at the Vale of Glamorgan Show

Welsh rugby stars Rhys Priestland, Ken Owens, Dafydd Jones, Ryan Jones and Lions coach Neil Jenkins will be at the Vale of Glamorgan Show on the 21st August.

Fans are invited to pop along to the Oil 4 Wales stand for a chance to secure photos and autographs of their rugby heroes.

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VALE OF GLAMORGAN AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Wednesday 21st August - FONMON CASTLE

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HAVE A GO AND...

Come spin a yarn with Welsh wool!

VALE members of the Tawe Guild of Weavers Spinners and Dyers will once again be attending the Vale of Glamorgan Show – to give visitors a taste of working with wool.

As well as demonstrating the age old skills of spinning, the ladies will also be on hand to encourage people to 'have-a-go' and spin a little yarn for themselves and to try their hand at weaving.

Local Guild member, Prof Ann Fox: said, "We have been coming along to the show for a number of years now and each time we try to bring along something new for people to see and 'have-a-go'.

"Wool is a wonderful, local and renewable source of fibre – and in Wales, we have some of the best you'll see.

"The opportunity for the public to have taster sessions with spinning wheels has, over the past few years, encouraged a number of people to take up spinning and is helping to keep the craft very much in the present, rather than a skill associated with the past."

Prof Fox added: "It is amazing how much people enjoyed the chance to try their hand at some of the skills for which Wales is famous throughout the world.

"A number of new spinners have taken up the craft since visiting the Guild at the show, and we have remained in touch.

"So, like other members of the agricultural community, it will be nice to meet up at the show and see how they have been getting on".

The Guild will also be showcasing weaving. People will be able to see examples of work showing the different types and styles that are used and how the weaving is designed and made in response to the fibre that is used for each project.

There will also be the chance to try your hand with basic peg looms, which are versatile and great fun for all ages and skill levels.

Prof Fox concluded: "It is always a great day. The shearer will be joining us again and people will be able to see how the national wool crop is gathered; in other words, shearing the sheep ready to send the wool away."

Of course, for those really keen to see the wide variety of wool, with its amazing range of colours and textures, a visit to the sheep lines is a must.

The Vale of Glamorgan Show plays host to a wide range of Lowland and Mountain sheep, British native, Continental and primitive breeds that you'll see gathered in one place.

SPINNING A YARN TO THE YOUNGSTERS

SHEAR TALENT ON SHOW...

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN AGRICULTURAL SHOW 2013

The Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Councillor Margaret Wilkinson, would like to wish everyone involved with The Vale of Glamorgan Agricultural Show a happy and successful event.

Hoffai Maer Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, y Cynghorydd Margaret Wilkinson, Dymuno pob llwyddiant i bawb a fydd yn helpu gyda'r sioe Amaethyddol Bro Morganwg.

THE MAYOR OF BARRY COUNCILLOR CLAIRE CURTIS
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Special Rural Profile

VALE OF GLAMORGAN AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Wednesday 21st August - FONMON CASTLE

'Show a feat of engineering by volunteer army'

I AM often questioned as to how many full time staff work directly for the Vale of Glamorgan Show.

The honest answer to this question is - *none* – although I am sure our General Secretary, Nicola Gibson, may challenge me on this issue because Nicola's part-time role is certainly more than a full-time job, particularly in the three months leading up to the show. I often wonder how many of the tens of thousands paying public that attend the Vale's largest and most prestigious outdoor event realise that the show is run by a volunteer committee, and a whole host of volunteers from other organisations, like the local Scouts and ATC groups – who provide so much valuable help and assistance on the day.

The challenge laid before this army of volunteers annually is to present a highly organised agricultural show, attracting over 200 trade stands and crowds in the region of 20,000 to 25,000 people – hopefully, in a manner in which visitors can enjoy a safe day out, whilst viewing at close range the cattle, sheep and horses on display – which represent the very best of what the Vale of Glamorgan can offer.

Weeks of work and planning go into arranging the show field, from what is basically a green field site, into a large, one-day shopfront for farmers and the rural community to meet many town folk from the Vale and surrounding areas.

There is no computer imaging or sophistication used, but bodies on the end of tape measures using datum points such as water troughs and gateways in the perimeter of the field.

Our committee and volunteers are so dedicated to the event that many of them turn up annually and they know their own tasks that lie ahead of them.

One of the major tasks is to erect somewhere in the region of one mile of security fencing around the show field, and with the work force in place, this can be achieved usually within 3 – 4 hours.

Similarly, the volunteers are back there by 8am on the Thursday after the show, prepared for a long day's graft clearing the site following the event.

Litter picking is carried out by hand across the whole of the 65-acre site!

I admit that some of the rules, regulations and health and safety requirements, which need to be complied with to run such a large event, are becoming beyond the scope of the average volunteer; and it is grossly unfair that such individual volunteers could face the threat of prosecution if there was a major incident that went badly wrong.

To this end, the show committee are constantly reviewing all aspects of health and safety, and policies are put in place to deal with any major threat of incident at the show field.

Whilst some of this work is now handled by professionals and semi-professionals, the future success of the show still depends (and will always depend) on its army of volunteers – and long may they continue.

DAVID HARRIS
(Show Director)

EXCELLENT TIMING FOR THE NEW C4 PICASSO

BASSETTS Citroen Bridgend has enjoyed a long and successful partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan show.

Every year, the show attracts new and existing Citroen customers, all genuinely interested in the brand's latest design and technology innovations.

The show's relaxed atmosphere not only allows Bassetts to showcase exciting new models, it also raises the profile of Citroen – a brand going from strength-to-strength recently.

Last year, the show allowed Bassetts to promote the multi award-winning DS range of cars, including the hugely successful DS3, stylish yet practical DS4, and the company's flagship DS5 models.

All three cars proved hugely popular and certainly increased showroom footfall, as word of mouth spread.

The 2013 show is excellent timing for Bassetts, coinciding with the launch of the all-new C4 Picasso. This striking model has just been delivered to the showroom and represents Citroen's 'Creative Technologie' at its best.

ANDREW JONES
(*Sales manager, Bassetts Citroen Bridgend*)

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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ORDER, SECTION 16A
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
VALE OF GLAMORGAN SHOW
Wednesday 21st August 2013

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Vale of Glamorgan Council have made an order under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as follows:-

WHEREAS during certain hours of the day and date specified in column 1 of Schedule 1 hereto the streets or part thereof listed in column 2 of the said schedule will be used for the holding of a relevant event as described in Section 16(A)(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Council, pursuant to the powers conferred by Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 do HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT in order to facilitate the holding of the event, enable members of the public to watch the said event and to reduce the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by the event the following regulation shall be observed:-

THAT, except as provided by the order, use, by all vehicular traffic, including pedal cycles but with the exception of Emergency Services Vehicles, of the said streets or parts thereof shall be restricted between the hours specified in column 3 of the said schedule.

The penalty for infringement of the said regulation is a fine not exceeding £1000.00.

SCHEDULE

COLUMN 1	COLUMN 3	COLUMN 3
Wednesday 21st August 2013	**1/Vale of Glamorgan Showground Main Access at Fonmon Castle grounds.** No right turn from the main field access/exit at grid 303747 167876 onto the B4265, this will allow only the left turn movement of vehicles from the access / exit onto the B4265. **Diversion** The diversion for West bound vehicles will be in a generally easterly direction along the B4265 to the roundabout at Penmark, then "U Turning" at this roundabout and travelling back along the B4265	6.00 am to 8.00 pm
	2/Fonmon Road, Fonmon. North bound carriageway closed to all traffic from Fonmon crossroads at grid 304806 167180 to its junction at grid 305056 167844 Nurston Road **Diversion** Northbound traffic will be diverted west along Port Road to the Blue Anchor, north through Burton Terrace and Burton Bridge, then in an easterly direction along the B4265.	6.00 am to 2.00 pm

Local Signed Diversions shall be in place
Dated this 15th day of August 2013

M. E. Punter, Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council
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Special Rural Profile

VALE OF GLAMORGAN AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Wednesday 21st August - FONMON CASTLE

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Countdown to the deadline for the horticulture entries

WE hope, as always, that the people who grow vegetables and flowers have been able to overcome the poor weather in the spring.

This year, the horticultural schedule includes classes for the professional and amateur gardener – along with novelty classes and children's competitions.

It really is a lot of fun to compete in these competitions and we would love to hear from you with your entries.

Exhibitors should note that the last day for entries in the horticultural show is Saturday, August 17.

This is very important, because on receipt of your entries you will be sent a pass to fix to the windscreen of your vehicle. This label will allow you entry to the showfield to place your entries in the marquee before 9am on show morning; entries may also be placed on the evening before the show.

After 9am, all exhibitors will have to pay the full entry fee. The schedule is available to view on the show website *www.vale-ofglamorganshow.co.uk* (this includes the entry form to be completed and returned to Mrs. Griffin).

Let's hope the current lovely weather will last for show day!

TERRY GRIFFIN

Dog Show a top show attraction

IT'S that time of year again – August 21 – the date of the Vale Agricultural Show!

One of the major attractions is always the dog show section, and being held in the grounds of Fonmon Castle provides one of the best indoor and outdoor facilities in Wales.

Although entries at dog shows in general seem to be in decline, that is not the case at this prestigious event.

It is a 'must attend' show for dog exhibitors from Wales as well as over the border – in the Midlands, Bristol, Devon, Cornwall and along the M4 corridor.

Many breeds of dog are entered, and this proves a hit with spectators who come along to see their favourite breed – and to chat with dog owners and breeders.

Judging will commence at 11am, so please come and visit us early! Our judges are from all over the United Kingdom, but also include some of our highly- respected local judges.

We are the only show in Wales that hosts a qualifying round of the Kennel Gazette Junior Warrant challenge. Six dogs will qualify for the semi-final, at the Discover Dogs event at Earls Court, London, in November.

A huge amount of organisation both from the dog committee and the general committee goes into providing the facilities for you all and we look forward to welcoming you and hope you enjoy the day.

PETER PASK (Dog Section Secretary)

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Special Rural Profile

VALE OF GLAMORGAN AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Wednesday 21st August - FONMON CASTLE

The Show goes on with SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

LEFT: Rev Malcolm Davies and his wife Jean.

MEMORIES... *'Another season, another show'...* **as the old song goes... and I have to be honest, my wife Jean and I have enjoyed so many Vale of Glamorgan Agricultural Shows over the years, many at Penllyn – and now at Fonmon Castle.**

What we both like about this event is the fact there is something going on from early morning until late evening to suit everyone.

Furthermore, it is always pleasing to see young people taking an active part – whether it is with farm animals, pet lambs, or gardening – and to see their smiling faces when they win a prize or a rosette.

Year after year, it is plain to see how farming has changed: the ongoing design of tractors – combine harvesters – and so many implements on display, that when used, quickly change the landscape. Children who sit in and on the tractors take it all in their stride.

Thanks to the show, who knows, they may be operating them one day!

By comparison, I personally enjoy standing by, watching and listening to the old machines of yesteryear spluttering away, with grandfathers explaining to their charges how it used to be in the good old days!

There is so much to see and even to take part in, that this show is one definitely not to be missed.

It is an event that has taken great strides to promote all that is good in Welsh agriculture especially here in the Vale.

Our thanks must go to those behind the scenes; to all who organise and prepare the show ground for all of us to really enjoy a good family day out.

We began with an old song so why not end with another? *'Whatever the weather, we'll all be together'...*

Have a super day with your families and loved ones.

Rev MALCOLM DAVIES

See next week's GEM for full Vale Show report and pictures

YOUR CHANCE TO MEET WELSH RUGBY STARS

LEFT: There was a scrum for autographs at last year's Vale Show - and this year should be no exception!

SOME of Wales' best-known rugby stars will be at the Vale of Glamorgan Agricultural Show this year to meet fans and sign autographs.

Scarlets Rhys Priestland and Ken Owens, and Ospreys' Ryan Jones, will be joined by former Welsh international Dafydd Jones and British & Irish Lions' coach, Neil Jenkins, at the Oil 4 Wales stand, during the show next Wednesday, August 21.

As the oil brand for Wales, independent oil distribution company, Oil 4 Wales has a strong affiliation with Welsh rugby.

Dafydd Jones said: "We're looking forward to joining the Oil 4 Wales team at this year's Vale Show and meeting some of our fans.

"It's a great company to be involved with, as like us rugby players, they are truly passionate about Wales and serving the Welsh community."

Oil 4 Wales is a family-run business that supplies over 17,000 customers in Wales with a range of fuel services to their homes, businesses, agricultural and retail premises.

Colin Owens, managing director of Oil 4 Wales, said: "Agriculture is a big part of our business. We supply our fuels to a number of farms, small holdings and farming groups in the area, so it's great to be at one of Wales' best agricultural shows to meet our customers.

"It's also a fantastic opportunity for fans to meet some of Wales' best-loved rugby legends – so we hope to see as many people as possible at our stand."

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For our full event programme visit us at www.vwbn.org.uk

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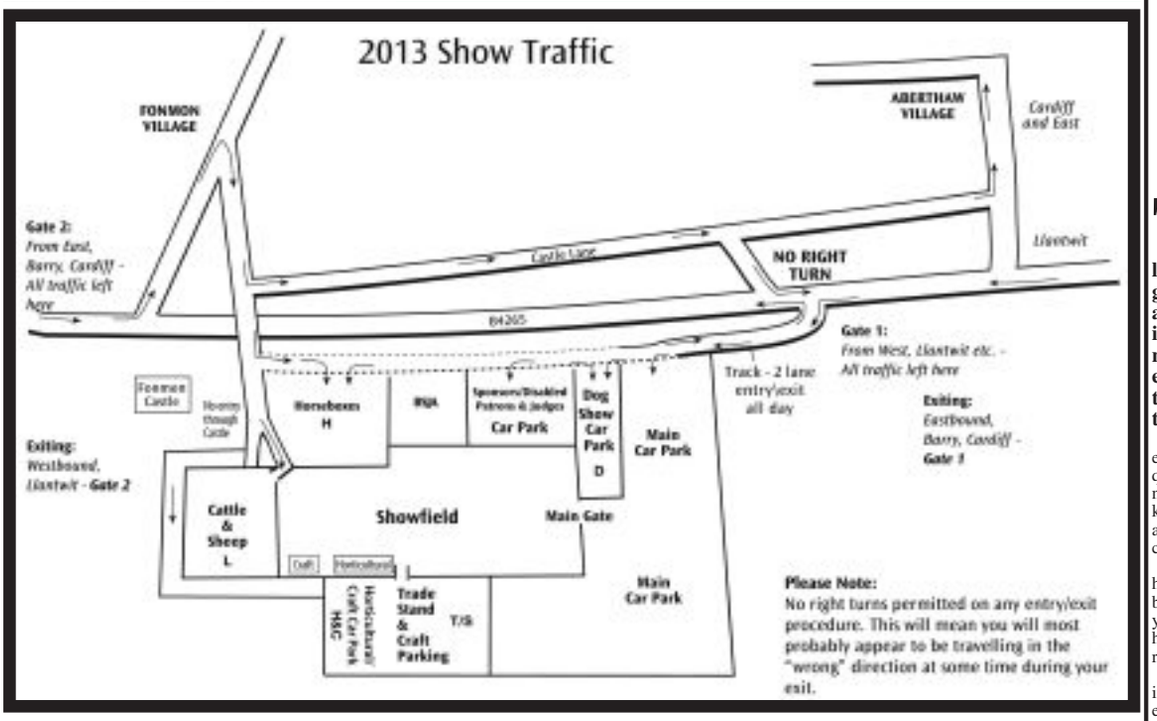
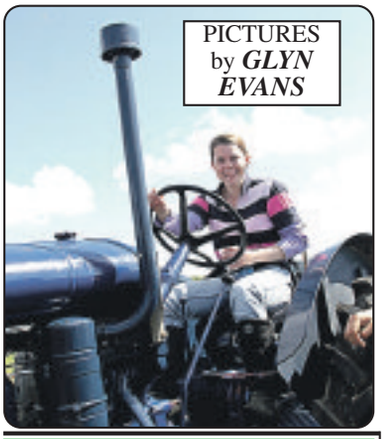
VALE OF GLAMORGAN AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Wednesday 21st August - FONMON CASTLE



Snapshots from last year's show...



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NEWS FROM THE FONMON APIARY

It's no fun being a drone, once your task is done!

THANKS to the settled conditions of late, the bees are getting out and about, and carrying out their pollinating services, in exchange for which their reward is nectar for the taking.

Colonies have expanded and consequently swarmed, this is not always to the beekeeper's liking, but it is a part of the bee's life cycle.

'Call out' to swarms has risen, which has benefited several of this year's beginners, and I have used a couple to restock my own apiary.

The swarming impulse does not affect every colony every year; some may not swarm for two years or more.

Many colonies make preparations to swarm, but then abandon the idea; very often it is the prevailing weather conditions that are the deciding factor.

Who decides within the bee colony that it is time for some to leave and some to stay? We don't really know.

An alert beekeeper can spot indicators and take steps to try to control the outcome in his/her favour, but we do not succeed every time.

When the swarm does emerge, it is the old queen that leaves and she takes a good cross section of the bees within the colony with her.

Prior to this emergence, the queen will have stopped laying eggs and she will have been fed less so as to slim her down and make her lighter and ready for flight.

The departing bees will consume honey before they go, to enable them to exist outside an established hive, and to sustain them while they set about making new honeycomb in their chosen spot.

What of those left behind?

Well, a new queen will emerge, as the swarming bees have left behind the wherewithal for that to occur.

This new queen definitely has a headstart, she is in an established hive that has provisions and 'ready to use' honeycomb plus bees, of course.

This lady is not yet ready to take up her duties i.e. egg laying, so if her colony is to survive she must be mated; she can, of course, lay eggs, but any eggs produced prior to her mating will produce drones (*male bees*) and as it is the ladies who do all the work within the hive, and do all of the foraging outside of the hive, the laying of eggs to produce these worker bees is a must.

The drone can only be described as a flying sperm bank, this is his only contribution to any colony, his sole purpose in life is to inseminate a virgin queen.

This mating is done on the wing (flying) and the queen will mate with up to 20 drones and then return to the same hive that she came from.

Not so for the drone, once he has injected his sperm into the queen, she will literally tear herself free of him and in so doing rips the genitals out of him and he drops to the ground mortally wounded. Job done.

Our mated queen is now ensconced and giving off a pheromone (chemical signal) that lets the other ladies of the hive know she is there and ready for duty.

Another couple of weeks may pass before she starts to lay.

She will not leave the hive again until she in her turn leads out a swarm in two to three years time.

Last year two of my hives swarmed and new queens were produced; however, due to the bad weather at the time, these queens could not get out and, therefore, did not get mated – resulting in queens producing only males: no workers, no colony.

The beekeeping year is drawing to a close: very shortly the drones that did not get to mate with queens will be expelled from the hive and will, of course, die.

They have no use in the winter and come next spring new ones will take their place.

Let us hope for a better survival rate for the winter to come – the beekeeper will do all he or she can to ensure this does occur.

Varroa control will be undertaken as a further step to aid survival.

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Marine Drive, Barry - £410,000
Three bedroom detached property. Sought after location. Panoramic views across Bristol Channel. Entrance hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, separate wc to the first floor. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazing. Enclosed rear garden. Off road parking for 3/4 vehicles. Garage. Short walk from The Knap.

Woodlands Road, Barry - £114,950
Traditional end terrace, bay fronted three bedroom property. Hallway, lounge through dining room, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, enclosed rear garden, garage, forecourt to front. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazing. Walking distance of Gladstone Park, primary schools and Holton Road shopping centre.

Burlington Street, Barry - £115,000
Four bedroom terraced property. Lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom & separate wc to first floor. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazing. Enclosed rear garden. Close to Holton Road shops, primary schools & train station providing links to Cardiff & Bridgend.

Senni Close, Barry - £144,950
Two bedroom semi detached in Cwm Talwg. Entrance hall, lounge/dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, bathroom. UPVC double glazing & gas central heating. Enclosed rear garden. Driveway providing off road paking for 3 vehicles. Close proximity to bus routes, playing fields & local shops.

Barry Road, Barry - £149,950
Three bedroom traditional mid terrace property. Hallway, two reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room. Bathroom to first floor. UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating, forecourt to front & enclosed south facing, well maintained rear garden. Close to all local amenities including public transport.

Trem Powys, Barry - £159,995
Well presented three bedroom end link property situated on Springfields. Hallway, lounge, family room, kitchen/dining room. Downstairs wc, family bathroom. UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating. Enclosed rear garden. Driveway providing off road parking for one vehicle.

Hatch Cottage, Barry - £169,950
Two bedroom detached cottage in 'Old Cadoxton'. Entrance porch, lounge, dining room, bespoke fitted kitchen. Bathroom to the first floor. Enclosed rear garden with hobby room & access to off road parking. Gas central heating, UPVC double glazing. Planning permission to extend.

Sherbourne Close, Barry - £169,950
Well presented three bedroom semi detached property situated on popular Highlight Park development. Entrance porch, lounge, dining room, modern fitted kitchen & bathroom. UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating. Enclosed rear garden. Garage and driveway providing off road parking for one vehicle.

Barry Road, Barry - £175,000
Well maintained two bedroom semi detached bungalow. Porch, hallway, two reception rooms. Conservatory, kitchen, shower room, utility area. UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating. Enclosed gardens to front and rear. Driveway providing off road parking for numerous vehicles. In close proximity to shops, schools & public transport.

Oxford Street, Barry - £179,950
Tastefully renovated, traditional three bedroom bay fronted, mid terrace property. Porch . lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room, ground floor wc & first floor bathroom. Enclosed rear garden. UPVC double glazed sash style windows. Newly fitted kitchen & bathroom. Walking distance of Porthkerry & Romilly Park.

Heol Miaren, Barry - £234,950
Four bedroom detached residence situated on the Pencoedtre Village development. Hallway, lounge dining room, conservatory, fitted kitchen. Utility room, downstairs w/c, family bathroom & ensuite shower to master bedroom. Enclosed, well stocked rear garden. Driveway. Garage with potential to convert.

Churchfields, Barry - £245,000
Well presented five bedroom detached. Hallway, lounge, dining room, family room, conservatory. Kitchen/breakfast room. Downstairs cloakroom. Two bathrooms. Dressing room/office/nursery to master bedroom. UPVC double glazing, gas central heating. Off road parking for 2-3 vehicles. Easy access to Cardiff & M4 corridor.

Glan Hafren, Barry - £249,950
Panoramic sea views. Rare to the market, three bedroom penthouse apartment situated in the Knap area. Secure communal entrance hallway accessed via intercom system. Hallway with office area, lounge through dining room, kitchen, bathroom, shower room. UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating. Set in communal gardens. Two garages with ample parking on site.

Heol Y Gaer, Barry - £299,950
Three bedroom detached bungalow in the Knap area. Sea views of Bristol Channel and beyond. Porch, inner hallway. Lounge, dining room, kitchen, shower room. Family bathroom. Driveway, detached garage. Gardens to front & rear. Walking distance to The Knap Gardens, Pebble Beach, Lakeside cafes, Romilly and Porthkerry Park.

Lakeside, Barry - £449,000
Three double bedroom detached with stunning views across The Knap, Pebble Beach, Bristol Channel & Somerset coastline. Totally refurbished. Entrance hallway, downstairs wc, lounge, dining room, kitchen/dining room, utility room. Balcony accessed via master bedroom. Gardens to front & side elevations. Garage, walking distance of cafes & beaches.

Fontygary Road, Rhoose - £209,950
Two bedroom detached bungalow. Hallway, kitchen, lounge, bathroom, separate wc. Enclosed front & rear gardens, driveway. Detached garage. Gas central heating. Views across Bristol Channel. Close proximity to primary school, bus route & train station. Walking distance to Fontygary Inn and complex, beaches & cliff walks.

Cliffwood View, Barry - £198,950
Two double bedroom semi detached bungalow. Hallway, lounge, conservatory, modern fitted kitchen. UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating. Converted garage/utility area. Enclosed garden with lawn & patio areas. Driveway providing off road paking. Walking distance to Porthkerry Country Park, Cold Knap and beaches.

Coed Mawr, Barry - £175,500
Three bedroom semi detached property set on a corner plot in cul de sac location. Porch, hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, separate wc, bathroom. Timber framed double glazed windows. Gas central heating. Enclosed front & rear gardens. Driveway. Garage. Walking distance of supermaket and comprehensive schools.

Coed Mawr, Barry - £173,500
Three bedroom semi detached property in cul de sac location. Porch, hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, Enclosed rear garden. Driveway. UPVC double glazed. Cavity wall insulation. Walking distance to doctors surgery, playing fields, supermarket, & comprehensive schools. Easy access to Cardiff & M4 corridor. No chain.

Heol Dewi Sant, Barry - £127,500
Three bedroom semi detached with far reaching sea views. Porch, hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, 2 shower rooms. UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating. Gardens to front, side & rear. Driveway. No chain.

Princes Street, Barry - £124,950
Three bedroom traditional mid terrace property situated in the sought after West End of Barry. Hallway, lounge through dining room, kitchen, first floor bathroom. UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating. Enclosed rear garden. Close proximity to High Street shops, Barry train station & schools. No chain.

Cornwall Rise, Barry - £127,500
Three bedroom semi detached property. Hallway, lounge through dining room, kitchen, bathroom to first floor. UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating. Gardens to front & rear. Driveway providing off road parking for one vehicle. Garage to rear of property benefiting from power & lighting.

Paget Heights, Barry - £99,950
Range of luxury first floor one bedroom newly renovated apartments with views across Barry Island, Bristol Channel & Somerset coastline. Modern kitchen, luxury bathroom with shower. Carpeted throughout. Fully double glazed. Allocated parking space. Leasehold 999 years from 2012.

Glanfa Dafydd, Barry - £149,950
Duplex penthouse apartment with two double bedrooms situated on The Waterfront development. Lounge, large fitted kitchen/diner with French doors opening onto balcony. Two bathrooms. Large balcony with views of the Waterfront. Allocated parking space with further guest parking. Close proximity to town centre.

Paget Heights, Barry - £149,950
Range of luxury second floor two bedroom newly renovated apartments situated with views across Barry Island, Bristol Channel & Somerset coastline. Modern kitchen fully equipped. Luxury bathroom with shower. Carpeted throughout. Fully double glazed. Allocated parking space. Leasehold 999 years from 2012.

High Street, Barry - £149,000
Ground floor shop unit with one bedroom flat above. Situated in prime location in sought after High Street shopping area, West End of Barry. Main shop area approx 27m/291ft, separate staff room/kitchen facilities and wc. Gas central heating. Garden area with rear lane access. Total floor area approx 36m/385ft.

Castleland Street, Barry - £160,000
15 self contained lock up units plus offices above and further storage to the ground floor situated just off the Town Centre of Barry. Strong potential income. Within easy access of Cardiff and Penarth.

Palmersvale Business Centre - £7,000pa
Opportunity to lease two storey unit. Workshop/storage area to ground floor. Office to first floor. Toilet facilities. Three phase electricity. Car parking spaces to front. Large roller shutter. Rent subject to VAT. Rates payable 2012/13 approx £2757 pa. Easy access to Penarth, Sully, Cardiff and link road to M4 corridor.

Windsor Road, Penarth - £25,000
Opportunity to lease ground floor commercial unit on a corner plot with large dry basement. Comprising main shop floor area, secondary shop area. Retail storage areas approx 100m²/1075ft². Basement approx 90m²/968ft². Situated amongst many independent and national retailers.

Holton Road, Barry - £99,950
Commercial unit with good living accomodation above in central location towards east end of Holton Road. Comprises ground floor shop unit with security roller shutter door. Living acommodation: lounge & kitchen to ground floor. Three bedrooms & bathroom to first floor. Gas central heating via combi boiler. UPVc double glazing.

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WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT AND WHERE?

David O'Brien – **Hensol Castle, Miskin** – Lift crown nominally by pruning back secondary limbs and foreshortening to lift limbs off the ground.

Mr Matthew George – **25 Church Avenue, Penarth** – Demolition and rebuilding of red brick boundary wall within conservation area due to structural failure.

Joanne Rushton – **12 Glyndwr Avenue, St Athan** – Proposed two storey extension to rear.

Mr Barry Llewellyn – **1 The Limes, Eastgate, Cowbridge** – Change of use of both ground and first floor to pet shop and veterinarian business, plus two storey extensions to side and rear and associated alterations.

Mr and Mrs Glyn James – **30 Andover Close, Barry** – Construction of new sun lounge to rear of dwelling.

Alison Pierry – **2 Marine Parade, Penarth** – Fell conifer hedge – left front boundary.

Sallie Hobbs – **5 Station Road, Dinas Powys** – Reduce 3 western red cedars by 30 per cent in height from 30ft to 20ft and branches overhanging the wall.

Mr Lyndsay Ellis – **181 Court Road, Barry** – Freestanding V-shaped sign.

Mr RW Protheroe – **8 Clive Crescent, Penarth** – Second floor balcony.

Andrew Raymond and Jonathan Raymond – **Waterton Lodge, Colwinston, Cowbridge** – Residential development with associated access, and the demolition of the existing dwelling.

Ms Hannah Meacham – **No 6, Vista Court, Northcliffe Drive, Penarth** – Replacement of existing window with patio style door and Juliette guarding.

Mr Peter Goldie – **High Trees, South Road, Sully** – Proposed conversion of an existing dwelling into two luxury apartments.

The Co-operative Group – **Co-operative Retail Services Ltd, 26 Windsor Road, Penarth** – The installation of two new AC condenser units.

Mr Lawrence Gainey – **Penrhiw Bungalow, The Downs, St Nicholas** – Retrospective planning for a side extension to my house, and planning approval for a loft conversion; side extension work complete, but loft conversion not started.

Mr Jon James – **The Glebe, The Causeway, Llanblethian, Cowbridge** – Demolition of existing kitchen/conservatory/utility and garage. New build extension of kitchen/utility, additional bedroom and new garage hard standing.

Penarth Arts and Crafts Ltd – **Penarth Pier Pavilion, The Esplanade, Penarth** – Alteration to insert a spiral stair to provide access from the ground floor to first floor to link the cafe at the seaward end of the building.

Mr David Smith – **10, Paget Place, Penarth** – Extension to existing utility room.

Mr Mo Farah – **10A, Royal Buildings, Stanwell Road, Penarth** – Glass etching or vinyl logo on one window, Cafe Nomad text above door.

Mr Jonathan Lane – **Crescent Corner Newsagents, 41 Park Crescent, Barry** – 8 metre x 3 metre hoarding for advertisement. Advertisement to be confirmed.

Mr John Williams – **Sealawns Hotel, Slon Lane, Ogmore by Sea** – Restoration of site.

Mrs W Hartrey – **4 Jenkinsville, Clive Place, Penarth** – Hip to gable loft conversion to existing domestic dwelling.

Mr Andrew Jones – **18 Westgate, Cowbridge** – Two storey rear outbuilding with accommodation to first floor and a rear extension to house.

Mrs P Copley – **West Winds, St Mary Church** – Revised design to sunroom – ref 2012/00341/FUL.

INRG Solar Ltd – **Land adjacent to Sutton Mawr Farm, Barry** – Installation of ground mounted photovoltaic (PV) solar arrays to provide 8MW generation capacity together with transformer stations; internal access track; landscaping; fencing; security measures; access gate and ancillary infrastructure.

E Sourlis – **Windmill Cottage, Beach Road, Marcross** – Single storey extension to front.

Mrs Elizabeth Wood – **13 Craven Walk, Penarth** – Rear single storey extension to provide a utility room, wc and bedroom with en-suite.

Mr Richard Ellis – **14 Channel Close, Rhoose** – Proposed first floor extension to side elevation above existing kitchen/utility room and alteration to existing porch to include a pitched roof above (instead of existing flat roof).

Chris Davies Estate Agents – **Chris Davies Estate Agents, 24 High Street, Barry** – Change of use from first and second floor offices to two bedroom apartment including alteration to personnel access.

Mr David Howells – **27 Beechwood Drive, Penarth** – Porch.

Mrs Delyth Hodgson-Downs – **Brynhawddgar, Ruthin, St Mary Hill** – Proposed menage and agricultural store building.

Mr Carl Terry – **Meadowvale Nursery, Cowbridge Road, Llantwit Major** – Application for a horticultural retail area and tea room.

Mr Hywel Southway – **10 Hensol Villas, Hensol** – Ground floor extension to front of dwelling, ground and first floor extension to rear of dwelling.

Silver Crescent Estates Ltd – **42 Clive Place, Penarth** – Part demolition of existing rear annexe and alterations to create three self-contained residential units.

Mrs Suzie Morel – **The Stables, adjacent to The Old Rectory, St Brides Super Ely** – Extension and renovation of existing property from two residential units to a single dwelling, including part demolition and part conversion of adjoining stable block to domestic garaging, and ancillary external works including modified vehicular access.

Richard Hayward Properties – **Beach Cliff, The Esplanade, Penarth** – Application for Change of Use from approved Use Class D2 (Gym) to Use Class A3 (Restaurant) on ground floor; Change of Use from Use Class C3 (Residential Unit) to Use Class C1 (Hotel) on a section of first, second and third floor.

RE Phillips & Partners – **Hayes Road, Sully** – Residential development (outline).

Mr Warren Pemberry – **29 Colcot Road, Barry** – Proposed alterations to existing as built to party boundary wall to number 27 and retention of rear extension wall and party boundary wall to number 31 as built, and addition of juliet balcony.

Charles Church (East Wales) Ltd – **site of former quarry, Leckwith Road, Llandough** – Construction of 24 residential units and associated works.

g2 Energy Renewable Developments Ltd – **Hill House Farm, St Marys Hill, Bridgend** – Erection of a single wind turbine, with maximum blade to height of 77 metres, along with accompanying access track, crane, hardstanding, substation, associated underground cabling and temporary construction compound.

Mr Chris Dando – **Land at 74 Murch Road, Dinas Powys** – Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of two new dwellings with revised vehicular access.

Mrs Cindy Dwyer – **Holm View Cottage, Pen y Turnpike Road, Dinas Powys** – Replacement dwelling of existing bungalow.

Ms Lucy George – **Hillside, Peterston Super Ely** – 27m x 40m outdoor riding arena and new steel framed building.

Mr Pui Chung Lee – **17 Fontygary Road, Rhoose** – New three bedroom detached house.

Mrs Emma Dobson – **127 Redlands Road, Penarth** – Demolish existing coal shed and build single storey kitchen extension.

Mr Trevor Griffiths – **21 West Farm Road, Ogmore By Sea** – Porch extension to front of property.

Mr Gareth Gamblin – **Bridge House, Bridge Street, Llanblethian, Cowbridge** – Minor building alteration providing a glazed screen to turn a woodstore to form an enlarged kitchen.

Mr Lance Carver – **Bryneithin, St Andrews Road, St Andrews Major, Dinas Powys** – Demolition (down to foundation level) of the main building at Bryneithin.

Mr Ben Horton – **Land on Atlantic Trading Estate, Barry** – Install a 10m slimline lattice tower with two 0.3m diameter dishes installed at a height of 8 to 10m above ground level.

Mitchells & Butlers Retail Ltd – **Barons Court, Penarth Road, Penarth** – Repair works to porch.

Mr James Jewell – **Grove Cottage, Sigginstone** – Fell three cypresses and one western red cedar and laburnum; reduce height and shorten limbs to north-west on one copper beech and light reduction to blue atlas cedar.

Ms Rachel Miles – **30 Victoria Road, Penarth** – Remove three leylandii trees and one yew tree.

Miss Mandy Stringer – **305 Barry Road, Barry** – New vehicle crossover and new driveway/parking bay.

Mr and Mrs Andrew Lord – **Ty Cerrig, Bonvilston** – Forestry machinery store building.

Mr Gareth Thomas – **Badgers Hollow, Graig Penllyn** – First floor side extension.

Mr David Morgan – **5 Nant Canna, Treoes** – First floor extension above current kitchen extension.

Mr John McGee – **2 Cwrt Leubren, Barry** – Single storey extension to rear.

Mr Shaun Cuddihy – **Land formerly known as Boys Village, West Aberthaw** – Proposed new stable block on former tennis courts and paddocks to playing fields.

Mr David Woodman – **The Plough and Harrow, Monknash** – Demolition of existing toilets and cold store (not listed). Extension of existing pub. Rebuild of existing outbuildings to provide residential accommodation and shop.

Mr Abdul – **Rear of The Lindens, Bradford Place, Penarth** – Fell four semi-mature sycamore trees, one holly tree and one bay tree.

Mr Barry Sayers – **14 Hickman Road, Penarth** – Replace front elevation windows with similar design double glazed hardwood box sash.

Mr A Rogers – **46 Westbourne Road, Penarth** – Re-render the two storey bay to the front, fit eight UPVC sliding sash windows to the bay only.

Mr and Mrs David and Dawn Taylor – **163 Colcot Road, Barry** – Single storey side and rear extension and front porch.

Mr Paul Motte – **United World College of the Atlantic Ltd, St Donats Castle, St Donats** – Internal alterations to Great Hall.

Mr David Pearn – **Tynewydd y Bryn, Peterston Super Ely** – Erection of a hay barn and machinery store.

MHA Care Group – **Penarth House, 26 – 28** – Permanent For Sale/To Rent advertisement board.

Mr Mark Haynes – **St Cyres Lower Comprehensive School, Murch Road, Dinas Powys** – Demolition of two storey school building and the caretaker's house.

The governors of Stanwell School – **Stanwell School, Salisbury Avenue, Penarth** – The Change of Use of an existing unoccupied caretaker's house from a dwelling to Non Residential Institution (School) D1 use.

Le Guilcher Architecture – **The Old Coal Yard, Arcot Lane North, Penarth** – Demolition of commercial premises (currently B1 + B8 use); change of use for residential usage for two houses.

Mr K and Mrs J Phillips – **18 Drylla, Southra Park, Dinas Powys** – Two storey side extension.

Mr Mike Bretland – **7 Beach Road, Penarth** – Proposed orangery style extension and rear utility extension.

Mr BL Bennett – **61 Hillside Drive, Cowbridge** – Change velux window to dormer window to match two other dormer windows on same roof plane.

Mr GM David – **7 Trebeferad, Boverton, Llantwit Major** – Single storey extension, porch and conservatory.

Mr Keith Harvey – **10 The Meridian, Penarth Portway, Penarth** – Replace existing (13 years old) patio doors.

Caffe Nero – **4 Birds Lane, Cowbridge** – Replace the existing shopfront with a painted hardwood version; fit condensor units to the exterior; shopfit the interior for use by Caffe Nero.

Mr and Mrs P and C Gunter – **4 Robinswood Close, Penarth** – Loft conversion with rear dormer and front porch extension.

Mr Alex Moult – **13 Stallcourt Avenue, Llantwit Major** – Ground and first floor extension.

Vale of Glamorgan Council – **Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg, Colcot Road, Barry** – Removal of existing demountable classroom units and creation of new primary school building with associated playground, parking, landscaping and lighting.

Mr Dave Jaques – **14 Le Sor Hill, Peterston Super Ely** – Single storey lean-to extension to rear of house.

Mr Ross Toshack – **15 Stacey Road, Dinas Powys** – Single storey side extension; single storey rear extension; installation of five rooflights.

Mr David Mais – **20B Glebe Street, Penarth** – Retrospective change of use of an existing office unit into a private hire taxi booking office at first floor level. The application also includes the provision of an external radio mast/antenna on the roof of the building.

Mr Alun Hughes – **4 Birch Grove, The Knap, Barry** – Crown lift and crown reduction to eucalyptus.

Mr Maria Hajigeorgis – **16 York Place, Barry** – The proposed development includes the change of use of the ancillary retail floor space to create a self-contained one bedroom apartment to the rear of 16 York Place.

Mr Alan Palmer – **11 Arno Road, Barry** – Two storey extension on end elevation and porch.

Nero Holdings Ltd – **Caffe Nero, 4 Birds Lane, Cowbridge** – Change of use of ground floor from A1 to A1/A3.

Mr and Mrs Tom Dodsworth – **3 Railway Terrace, Penarth** – Loft conversion with dormer to rear.

Mr Rob Gwilliam – **51 Amherst Crescent, Barry Island** – First floor side granny annexe and rear conservatory.

Persimmon Homes – **Showhome Plot 1, White Farm, Barry** – Proposed alteration of approved dwelling to include rear conservatory extension along with temporary visitory parking.

Mr John Ursell – **16 Orchard Crescent, Dinas Powys** – New single storey bungalow on land to the side of 16 Orchard Crescent.

Mr Peter Draper – **3 West Farm Close, Ogmore By Sea** – Garage extension.

Mr Philip Allen – **Aberthaw Power Station, The Leys, Aberthaw** – Construction, operation and decommissioning of a post combustion carbon dioxide and sulphur dioxide capture demonstration plant on land at Aberthaw Power Station, The Leys, Aberthaw, temporary for a period of up to five years.

Mr David Powell – **Mill Lodge, Windmill Close, Wick** – Retrospectively, the amendment and retention of a means of enclosure.

Miss Tracie Randall – **Dyffryn House South, Dyffryn Business Park, Llandow, Nr Cowbridge** – Change of use from offices to gym and fitness studio.

Mr Colin Faulkner – **The Bower, High Street, Llantwit Major** – Remove sycamore tree.

The Occupiers – **Ivy Villa, Colhugh Street, Llantwit Major** – Remove all tips from overhanging branches of yew.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 – Section 82

VACANCY FOR LAY MEMBER OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Do you want to know more about the way the Vale of Glamorgan Council's finances operate? Could you offer a strong and independent voice on the Council's financial affairs? Are you interested in local government and want to play a role in scrutinising how it works?

The Vale of Glamorgan Council is looking for a citizen to sit as an independent member of its Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee is important because it:

- reviews, scrutinises and issues reports and recommendations in relation to the Council's financial affairs
- reviews, scrutinises and issues reports and recommendations on the Authority's risk management, internal control and corporate governance arrangements
- oversees its audit arrangements and reviews its financial statements.

It is also possible that other relevant functions will be given to its Audit Committee.

The Council wants to appoint one lay member, the appointment to be until the local government election in May 2017. Applications are invited from anyone who would be interested in this position. In order to be eligible applicants must:

- be independent of the Council
- recognise and understand the value of the audit function
- have no business connection with the Council
- have knowledge of how local government functions
- display independence of thinking and unbiased attitudes.

The Council reserves the right to include additional eligibility criteria if the number of applicants satisfying the above criteria exceeds 4 in total.

When making the appointment, the Council will consider:

- your political independence
- your independence from the council
- your ability to meet the time commitment involved
- your ability to understand and weigh up evidence
- your understanding of local government.
- giving preference to applicants with main residency within the Vale of Glamorgan demonstrating an awareness of local issues.

If you believe you meet the above requirements and are interested in becoming a lay member of the Audit Committee of the Vale of Glamorgan Council you should forward a letter of application "In Confidence" to the Council's Monitoring Officer at the address below explaining your suitability for the post, together with two references by no later than Thursday 29th August 2013. All applications will be judged on merit and are subject to the submission of a letter of application and references.

The successful candidate will be entitled to receive a daily fee of £198 (£99 for half day) for attending meetings of the Audit Committee (payments to be capped at a maximum of ten full days per year).

The Council is an equal opportunities employer and provider of services and welcomes applications from women, young people, disabled people and people from ethnic minorities.

It is intended that interviews will take place in September 2013 and that the successful applicant will take up their appointment with effect from the next meeting of the Committee.

The Monitoring Officer
Vale of Glamorgan Council
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Holton Road
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Birthdays

Blaine
Hope you had a great day!
Happy 21st Birthday
on 14 August
All our love, Mum, Dad, Glyndwr & Liam *xxx*

Happy Birthday
KATHRYN JONES
on August 21
From all your colleagues at **The GEM**
x x x x

Family Notices

RUSSELL
Leon

Mike, Norma and family would like to thank all friends and relatives for their kind support, flowers, messages of sympathy and for attending the recent funeral service of their son Leon at the Cardiff and Vale Crematorium, Barry, on August 6.

Very special thanks to the minister Duncan Ballantine for his faultless service, heartfelt prayers and words of great comfort proclaimed during the service.

Also, our thanks to funeral directors W. James and Son of Fonmon, for the good service and comfort they provided during a very difficult time.

Finally, thanks to the staff of the Brynhill Golf Club for providing excellent catering and service throughout the afternoon.

STEWART
Eddie D

Suddenly on the 7th August 2013, Eddie of Llantwit Major, dearly loved husband of the late Joyce and a loving father and grandfather.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral on Wednesday 21st August in Coychurch Crematorium at 11.00am. Family flowers only, but donations may be made to Alzheimers Disease Society c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only please)

COLSTON
Dot

Peacefully at Llandough Hospital on Wednesday, 31st July, 2013, aged 99 years. Wife of the late Bert, mother of Margaret, Ray, Den, Mike, Gary and Janet.

The funeral service will take place at 3.00pm on Friday, 16th August at the Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations in lieu of flowers can be made on the day to Ty Hafan.

All enquiries to Green Willow Funerals, 21a Station Road, Dinas Powys, CF64 4DE. (02920) 514627)

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Kettler Professional electric running treadmill
With M9775 training computer.
Cost £600 new, will accept £130.
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Fresno Single White Cabin Bed with overbed storage. White with Silentnight Kids Poppy Purotext Mattress **£210.** Ikea Mammut childrens pink & red bed with mattress, wardrobe, study table, chest of drawers and small table. Collection before 12 August.
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Originally from Malaysia with exquisite wood carvings. Measurements: Height 143cm (with lid open 148cm). Bargain price.
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Six Mirrored Wardrobe Sliding Doors £30 each
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News, Sport, Letters, Features, What's On, Jobs, Motors....

Readers' Letters

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Fears over housing at Weycock Cross

I READ again with dismay about the latest attempt by a building developer to build a housing estate at Weycock Cross, Barry.

Sadly this appears to be the latest developer to 'test the water' in their desire to build 200 houses at Weycock Cross.

Some may argue the houses are needed together with employment opportunities which would be created. However, there are many other reasons why this proposal should not be allowed.

It is evident it is against planning policy of the local authority. It cannot be denied the site remains outside the development boundary.

Equally, the land has been used for agricultural purposes not residential development.

No doubt the developer will seek to capitalise on alleged lack of housing supply due to the delay of the new development plan.

However, the local authority will no doubt deal with such an issue and therefore it is clear the planning application is premature.

One would hope the local authority would defend its position, but ultimately this would potentially be at the expense of the council taxpayer in terms of legal costs.

Surely there are far more suitable sites to build rather than the greenfields as suggested. Again this is against planning policy. It is concerning an additional 500 houses could also follow in close proximity to Weycock Cross if planning precedent was set.

How would Port Road cope? Many commuters will already have witnessed disruption on Port Road itself. How would tourism in the Vale be encouraged, or Cardiff Airport be promoted? The road infrastructure is clearly inadequate.

The public consultation period for planning permission has commenced and will end on August 27.

It is important to write or email the council planning department to outline any objections, quoting reference 2013/00701/out.

Jonathan Hewitson
Barry

'Still no lanes to make cycling safe'

OUR neighbours over the water are set to receive a share of £77 millions with seven other English cities to provide better cycling networks.

Bristol is already streets ahead of the whole of my own county in respect of cycling lanes. I have campaigned for years for a 'cycling motorway' to be built between Barry and Cardiff Bay through Dinas Powys.

The route is flat and ideal for cyclists, who at present have to risk their lives and negotiate the very dangerous stretch between Cadoxton and Southra Park estate in Dinas Powys.

This stretch cost a young mother her life as she walked home one Sunday morning less than two years ago but nothing has been done since to make this road safer for walkers or cyclists – despite even more previous fatalities on the railway line – almost certainly caused by frustrated pedestrians who took to the rail lines because of the lack of a decent footpath.

I have just written to my MP for help, but as with our 50+ year campaign for a much-needed by-pass, we are continually ignored and the most I have gained in recent years is a feasibility study for a cycle/footpath which showed that it would be too expensive to build, difficult to negotiate and buy the land required.

With budgets tight and not much support from a largely non-cycling council membership, I'm afraid keen cyclists from Barry and Dinas Powys will have to keep risking their lives on a narrow dangerous road in all weathers, with no help from the Vale Council.

Christopher Williams
(Elected Member, Democratic Services, Vale Council)

IMMIGRATION – LEGACY OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE?

I WRITE to you in response to a recent letter you published from Laurence Reid in Sigingstone who failed utterly to grasp, in his rant against immigration, the reason there are so many immigrants in Britain.

We are here because you were there. Simple, isn't it?

Britain has historically impoverished several nations – most so-called 'developing nations' were the object of Britain's greed, all cloaked with the pretence of virtue.

That greed has now come back to bite contemporary Britain on the bottom, through the very immigration that Mr Reid whines about.

Another letter on the same page caught my attention, this one from G Smith in Llantwit Major who starts off well, pointing out how MP Alun Cairns singularly fails to notice the Conservative party's effect on poverty – a man-made phenomenon.

However, at the end of his letter, Mr Smith appears to switch – and develop a problem with overseas funding.

Perhaps this funding can make some small amends for Britain's colonial past?

Monica Banerjee
Barry

Confusion over the EU bill...

THERE is confusion about how much we give to the EU – I saw £12.23 billion mentioned recently.

Whatever it is, we are net contributors, and it is no comfort to be given back just some of our own money and told how to spend it – on industrial regeneration or anything else – when we could decide ourselves how to spend it – and have more to spend, anyway.

As for being 'on our own', like Norway, we might join the European free trade area, and still have access to the single market.

...Or we might be like Turkey and just have a customs-free union – Turkey grows less and less keen on EU membership.

In any case, I read that we run a trade deficit with the EU, so it needs us more than we need it.

As for 'unelected' and 'unaccountable' – have any of your readers ever voted for an EU commissioner?

RH Bradshaw
Cowbridge

HATS OFF TO BARRY TOWN!

I AM writing to say how pleased I am that Barry Town are to make a return to the Welsh League.

The judge's ruling was certainly the right one and proved that the decision to withdraw the club was unlawful. The decision of judge Seys Llewellyn QC showed that there were failings in the Welsh FA's remit and that Barry Town United must be allowed to play in the third division.

It is now down to the Welsh FA to ratify the club's return – and for their sake they now need to put this right to restore faith in their organisation.

I would at this point also wish to thank manager Gavin Chesterfield and the dedicated band of local supporters for keeping the team going in these difficult circumstances.

At last we now have an end to this long-running dispute and I am absolutely delighted with this outcome. For the last 100 years, football has been taking place in Barry and long may it continue.

Hats off to the supporters who have done a remarkable job and have loudly spoken out for what is a great passion in this town.

As a representative of Barry, I would like to go on record in saying this is an excellent result for our local community and this latest result is an amazing goal for us. This decision means so much to this town, and I am with you all the way.

Now it is time for the Welsh FA to act and make sure that Barry Town United is back where they belong!

Coun Richard Bertin,
Independent,
Vale Council.

WHY TAR AND CHIP ROADS?

AT long last, the roads around Barry are being resurfaced after years of neglect by the council.

I am disappointed to see tar and chip being used across several areas of the Vale, despite this surface proving to be a failure on Cardiff Road on the way to Dinas.

The surface on that road soon wore down and became pitted quite quickly, not to mention the huge amounts of loose gravel left on the road surface for days being an issue for motorcyclists.

So why, when our taxes are being spent on resurfacing this road in a relatively short amount of time, is the same tar and chip surfacing being deployed on other roads like Five Mile Lane and through Wick and Ewenny?

Our roads need proper resurfacing, not just simple redressing just so the council can tick a box and say its done something.

Kevin Watts,
Barry.

Big Knit appeal

AGE Cymru is calling for help with its Big Knit fundraiser.

"We're looking for knitters to knit little bobble hats which will appear on Innocent smoothie bottles in Sainsbury's stores across Wales," says spokeswoman Nia Butler.

"Age Cymru receives a donation for every smoothie hat knitted and money raised by The Big Knit allows us to help older people to stay fit, healthy and active during the winter months and keep their homes warm."

Call 029 2043 1555 or send an email to emm.lionel@agecymru.org.uk for details. The deadline for sending hats to Age Cymru is September 18.

Sully Sports shine in tournament

LAST weekend saw Sully Sports RFC make the annual trip to Southmead RFC for a charity 10s tournament in aid of Help for Heroes.

The first team that Sully were to face in this tournament was Ashdown RFC which saw Sully dominate from the start and with some great tries coming from Nathan Taylor, Ben Such, Mike Angove, Harry Moyle and Nathan Szuchnik, Sully won the game 24-5.

Next up was local Bristol side St Marys RFC. Sully didn't get off to a great start, as a few missed tackles and a bad line of defence saw St Marys cross the line to open up the scoring.

Not to be deterred by this, Sully regrouped and with some great ball carries by Jody Velda, saw a platform set up for Wayne Jones to cross the line and bring the scores back level.

This inspired the Sports and some great rugby was played, which saw Nathan Taylor score a hat-trick of tries followed by Sam Bowditch notching one for the forwards. This game finished 26-14 and the Sports were now two wins from two.

A further three games were played which saw Sully go on to beat hosts Southmead RFC 21-5 and Avonmouth RFC 17-12. Unfortunately the last team Sully were due to play pulled out, but with Sully at this point with four wins from four, it meant that none of the other teams could catch them so a place in the final was secure.

The final was played against St Marys, who Sully had beat in the first match. The team were hungry for this game, as Sully have been attending this tournament for the last nine years and were yet to win it.

The final kicked off and was very physical from the start, but the forwards stepped up to the plate and created space for Jake Williams to cross the line.

From the restart Sully took their eye off the game to let St Marys straight back into it. Some stern words from captain John Thomas saw Sully play some outstanding rugby and scored some breathtaking tries through Nathan Taylor, Ben Such and Nathan Szuchnik.

At the final whistle Sully had won the game 24-5, crowning them champions of Southmead 10s 2013.

This is a massive step for Sully Sports RFC who three years ago were playing Cardiff and District rugby, and are now at WRU level.

The club would like to thank South Wales Lift Services and CJ Travel Contract services for their continued support.

For anyone wishing to join Sully Sports RFC, training nights take place on Mondays and Wednesdays, at 6.30pm at the Sully Sports and Social Club, South Road, Sully.

MA

INTER-DARTS LEAGUE GAME SEES BARRY LOSS

ON August 9, the first inter-league darts match took place between sides from the Barry Darts League and the Caldicot and Magor Darts League.

The away side arrived at the Barry Football Club, bringing 17 players and over 20 extra supporters, far outnumbering the home support.

The match began with both sides sharing the opening four, high quality games. Caldicot and Magor then produced some fantastic darts to win the next eight ties.

A brief rally from the Barry team saw them win the next three ties but Caldicot and Magor took the final two games to give them a 12-5 victory.

Even though the Barry darts league's first venture into this type of match resulted in a resounding defeat, all players and supporters involved had a thoroughly enjoyable evening and look forward to a return game in the future.

The darts produced on the night was of the highest quality with Matt Stanger, Terry Overton and Mark Driscoll (all Barry League) and Rob Leigh and Geraint Davies (Caldicot & Magor) all hitting 180s on the night; Geraint Davies also hit a 101 out shot.

Wins for the Barry side came from Matt Stanger, Terry Overton, Richie Williams, Kevin Seldon and Peter de Souza.

I would like to thank Dave Cutts for the original idea for the match, all the players and supporters for helping to make this such an entertaining evening, and also like to thank Mike Stringer and the staff of the Barry Football Club for hosting the event and providing the food on the night.

RL

Hannah and Emily's medal haul success

HANNAH and Emily Hunt (above) of Rhoose Tae Kwon Do did their club proud at the North Midlands Championships this past weekend.

The girls won an impressive haul of five medals between them. Hannah got gold in individual sparring and in the tag team sparring, and a silver in the strike pad event.

Emily got a bronze in the individual sparring and a gold in the strike event.

Hannah and Emily have fought in numerous competitions for the past three years, winning many events. They have represented Rhoose Tae Kwon Do club and instructor Mr Schembri to the fullest of their capability.

In September they will be moving to Florida with their parents to embark on a new adventure - we wish them all the luck and are proud of these two Rhoose girls - well done from all at Rhoose Tae Kwon Do.

JS

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BUSY TIMES AT LOCAL GOLF CLUB

THE exceptional spell of good weather meant that all competitions went ahead as planned at Wenvoe Castle Golf Club and members, guests and visitors were all able to play on a course which continues to be in simply stunning condition.

The second session of captain's day involved a Mixed Greensome Foursomes and club captain Barrie Jones was delighted with the excellent support on the day. The clear winners were Tom and Linda Marples who combined to produce a score of 47 points and thoroughly deserved their prize of a voucher for a meal for two at the Beech Tree Inn; Nicola Sims and Simon Gatheridge took second place with 41 points.

The popular members and guests day was also very well supported with almost 100 players taking part and once again the condition of the course, particularly the magnificent greens, was the main talking point.

Mike Osbourne and his guest James Humphries dovetailed perfectly to produce a round of top quality to comfortably win the 'four ball better ball' with a net 64 strokes.

They both deserved their winning voucher of £100 each to purchase golf equipment of their choice. The runners-up spot was keenly contested with four pairs returning a net score of 67 points. Jeff Hutchings and guest Paul Thomas squeezed home to take second place on count back just ahead of Matthew Gill and Hugh Tate; both pairs received vouchers and a share of the sweep.

Barrie Jones thanked the members and their guests for their support and paid tribute to the catering and bar staff who worked so well on a very busy and long day. He also thanked club professional Jason Harris for his efficient administration of the tournament throughout the day.

During July several other honours board competitions were held including the 50th Year Cup won by Nick Caulfield and Ian Pearcey and The Renwick Seniors Trophy was won by Rob Hill with 41 points. This busy period saw the Seniors Open contested by a huge field of 166 players from far and wide but it was club member Mike Froud who took the honours with an impressive 44 points.

Has Wenvoe Castle Got Talent? This question may be asked about the golfing skills on the magnificent championship course but the stage was set on the panoramic patio for club members to show what they can do in the world of music.

A warm and balmy summer's evening provided the ideal conditions and over 100 members provided the enthusiastic audience for what would prove to be a quite stunning and very professional performance.

The evening opened with music provided by resident DJ Leigh Ivory while members tucked into a hog roast superbly cooked by chef David Reis and his team.

Before the show commenced members generously took part in a special raffle to raise funds to 'save the fish' in the pond on the 10th hole. The recent hot weather had seen the pond almost dry and large volumes of water had been used to keep the pond filled and help the many fish who were clearly struggling to survive.

The clearly talented Brian McConkey acted as MC for the evening and opened the show with 'Up On the Roof' originally by the Drifters. Next up was Jeremiah 'Pip' Smith who impressed the audience with a trio of folk songs including 'St James Infirmary Blues' and 'Fields of Home'.

This was quickly followed by Adrian Jones who had the patio in full swing with him as he sang 'Fields of Athenry', an Irish folk ballad set in the years of the Great Famine.

Ken Howells brought a European dimension to the show as he bravely sang all the national anthems of the countries in the rugby Six Nations and by the time he reached a climax with the Welsh, the whole audience was up standing and formed its own Wenvoe Castle Choir.

Mavis Kempson was then given a tremendous ovation for her version of 'Moon River' from Breakfast at Tiffany's and then followed by 'Till (the moon deserts the sky...)' one of Shirley Bassey's big hits.

The top quality show was rounded off by Brian McConkey who showed his tremendous versatility with a medley of songs including 'Piano Man' and a number of famous hits by the Beatles.

It was an evening to remember and Barrie Jones paid tribute to all those who had taken part confirming Wenvoe Castle indeed has talent.

He thanked all who had made the arrangements and contributed to the very successful evening particularly the organisers Marilyn Davies and Nicola Sims.

The evening continued deep into the early hours of the morning as the momentum of the show carried on with dancing on the patio to the fine music.

BJ

ABOVE: Linda and Tom Marples with Barrie Jones (centre).

ABOVE: Mike Osbourne (right) and Tom Humphries.

Barrivale news

Latest results from Barrivale Bridge Club, August 6:

1st Jane Brook & Ken Hannah 59.38%; 2nd Noelle Bond & Irene Thomas 54.17%; 3rd Peter Millar & Mike Best 53.13% - Jane & Ken also won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale, if you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

Please note there will be no bridge on August 20 and 27.

MB

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GRAND VOYAGER IS IN A CLASS OF ITS OWN

MOTORING by TIM SAUNDERS

THERE is only one luxury people mover and that is the Chrysler Grand Voyager.

It is fortunate that I have a grand voyage of my own planned to really put it through its paces. And I am pleased to report that it scored very highly with the Saunders family.

I wanted to whisk my family away for a long weekend to Tichborne's Farm Cottages in Wiltshire and all our belongings would not have fitted into a standard car. It is only when you have at least two children that you realise many cars just aren't big enough anymore.

They won't fit all the paraphernalia. But this cavernous Yank easily swallows everything including our cumbersome tandem pushchair, together with one crib, four days of food for the self-catering break, various suitcases for the girls and a couple of shirts for me...

Life is so very easy with the Chrysler. Everything is electrically operated, including the power-folding wing mirrors and front seats. The rear doors and boot can be opened or closed by pressing the appropriate button on the keyfob or by the front occupants, who can push the roof-mounted switches as you can see in the videos at *testdrives.biz.*

The rear passengers aren't forgotten either, because there is a button close to the inside of each door to use if desired. The doors also automatically slide open when the external handle is pulled.

These rear doors are especially user-friendly when children's car seats need fitting because there is so much space.

Traditional car doors that open outwards often pose a problem when they cannot be fully opened, for instance where there's another car parked next to you in a car park.

The third row of seats, which accommodate three passengers, is easily lifted at the click of a button in the boot. This rises or falls with ease and when stowed, the boot is simply enormous.

My wife likes the fact that there is a space between the two seats in the second row, giving passengers plenty of room and allowing for long items to be easily stored.

As a treat, my eldest daughter is allowed to watch a DVD and headphones are stored in a useful overhead compartment.

This large vehicle is famed for its regular appearance in BBC1's *The Apprentice*, where it ferries hapless candidates to Lord Sugar's various challenges. It's an ideal vehicle for such activities because there is plenty of room inside, making it perhaps more user-friendly than the slightly cheaper but more traditional black cab taxi.

With its brilliant black finish, chrome grille, door mirrors and handles, the Grand Voyager cuts a dashing figure, commanding many a second glance from admiring motorists.

I like the captain's style seats, which incorporate fold down armrests in the front and in the second row. The driving position is excellent and it's a responsive vehicle considering its size, although the brakes are not as responsive as I might wish on some occasions.

The 2.8-litre diesel engine is a little rough around the edges and can be heard from inside the cabin but for me this just adds to the sense that it is a van and that's quite appealing.

It's perhaps what the A-team might have moved up to if they ever became more sophisticated.

The six-speed auto box is guilty of being a little indecisive at times, usually when travelling at low speed up a hill and second gear might do the job just as well as third at around 25 to 30mph.

Despite its size it has the power to safely overtake vehicles at speed along Wiltshire's B-roads.

Overall the Chrysler Grand Voyager is unequalled in terms of luxury and capability. We travel around 300 miles on under half a tank. A hard vehicle for the family to return.

Facts at a glance: Chrysler Grand Voyager 2.8 CRD Limited.

OTR price with options: £36,930.

0-60mph: 12.8secs.

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Watch the videos at *www.testdrives.biz.*

Deaf golfers tee off at the Vale Golf Resort

DEAF and hard of hearing players have taken up golf thanks to a new initiative by Golf Development Wales and the Vale Golf Resort and Spa, which is set to be rolled out across Wales.

The scheme has attracted over 14 beginners to coaching at the club, while they also hosted the Deaf Four Nations Cup, with more than 40 players from around the UK competing and staying at the resort.

It is the first of a planned 20 inclusive golf hubs around Wales by 2015, providing quality sessions to disabled people within their communities. This is part of the New Golf Development Community Strategy supported by Sport Wales and Disability Sport Wales.

Golf Development Wales recently achieved the Disability Sport Wales Insport Ribbon Award, one of the first in Wales, and are working towards bronze standards.

"The insport programme is a four stage award programme, designed to provide more opportunities for disabled people in sport, in terms of participation, coaching, volunteering, officiating and employment opportunities," said golf development Wales officer Zoe Thacker. "When we originally set up this programme we had no idea the huge impact that it would have.

"The aim was to set up a beginner golf development programme for deaf and hard of hearing individuals in order to break down the barriers deaf people face when accessing golf."

Vale Golf Resort and Spa head golf professional Clive Coombs completed a PGA inclusive golf coaching workshop, sponsored by ISPS Handa, and initiated plans to use the Vale as a hub for deaf coaching activities.

Fourteen deaf and hard of hearing beginners receive coaching at the club.

To find out more about activities at the Vale or any other coaching sessions in Wales check out the website www.golfdevelopmentwales.org to find your nearest club.

Millwood bowls round-up

LAST Wednesday, Millwood faced off against Cadoxton at home in the Munro Cup and earned a 79-59 victory.

On Saturday they were in league action at home to Beddau and lost 82-65, a loss that puts paid to the team's hopes of promotion and leaves them looking nervously over their shoulder as they face Grange this Saturday.

Sully Bridge Club

THE latest Sully Bridge Club results are as follows:

Monday, August 5. North/South, 1 – Peter Millar/Trish Tracy; 2 – Pat Evans/Jane Gretrex; 3 – Judy Collins/Roger Cradick.

East/West, 1 – Patsy Cohen/Joy Secular; 2 – Sam Fellows/Marylin Jones; 3 – Marion Avon/Dorothy Foulkes.

Wednesday, August 7. North/South, 1 – Peter Millar/Trish Tracy; 2 – Ann Williamas/Marilyn Jones; 3 – Pat Evans/Roger Cradick.

East/West, 1 – Bunty Wiseman/Anne Johns; 2 – Pam Powditch/Beryl Marke; 3 – Bill Leyburne/Lynne Leyburne.

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2013 13 Reg	MINI Cooper S Hatch Midnight Black, Grey Lounge Leather, CHILI Pack	4k	£18,850
2012 12 Reg	MINI Cooper S Hatch Lighting Blue, Black Half Leather, CHILI and Media Pack, Panoramic Glass Sunroof	7k	£17,450
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2009 59 Reg	MINI Cooper Convertible Midnight Black, Black Half Leather, CHILI Pack	19k	£11,850
2010 10 Reg	MINI Cooper Graphite Special Edition Hatch, Dark Silver, Black Cloth, 16" Alloys CHILI Pack	28k	£9,950
2008 58 Reg	MINI Cooper S Hatch Chili Red, Black Half Leather, White Roof, Xenon Headlights, CHILI Pack	54k	£9,450
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GEM sport

Cadoxton bowlers suffer away defeat

CADOXTON visited Millwood for the last match on the Munro Cup fixture list - the outcome was a win for the home side.

Graham Brown struggled early with his rink in the early stages against Joe Butler, and trailed 15-3. A spirited reply brought eight winning ends; nonetheless this failed to catch up, losing by one shot.

Ivor Robertson skipped a rink against ex-Cadoxton player Andrew Hatcher. They won seven ends, but all singles except for a '2', while conceding a '6' two '4's and two '3's amongst the losing ends.

Kelvin Chedgzoy's rink also failed to win against a strong rink skipped by experienced Peter Taylor. The home side scored a '4' and two '3's which was the difference between success and failure.

Skips Don Kuhnell and Brian Crockford met in the other rink, which resulted in the only success for Cadoxton. A 4-0 lead to the visitors, became an 8-4 deficit after a '5' was conceded on the fifth end.

However, only two more ends were lost, while eleven ends were successful, for a comprehensive win.

G Powell, M Curtis, G Davies, I Robertson 8 – 29 T Mullins, G Stone, K Davies, A Hatcher; G Solomon, D Evans, W Vaughan, G Brown 16 – 17 S Hopkins, P Childs, C Mallon, J Butler; K McMahon, L Adams, L Davies, D Kuhnell 22 - 12 B Webb, R Thomas, J Slee, B Crockford; S Clements, S Clarke, K Cowling, K Chedgzoy 13 – 21 B Howcroft, M Lucas, A Bumford, P Taylor. Final score: 59 – 79.

CADOXTON V RUMNEY – FRIENDLY

Cadoxton's threat of relegation was put aside when they played a friendly against a club from a higher division at Rumney.

The green had numerous quirks, which gave them plenty to think about. Derek Brook's rink seemed down and out at the tea break, when they trailed 19-4.

However, as quite often happens, things change after tea, and they were successful in eight of the final 10 ends, to fail narrowly to make a complete turn round.

Another recovery was completed by Don Kuhnell's rink. They trailed 12-1 after a '5' was conceded on the fifth end. However, they hit back on the next end with a '5' to start a run which brought the score to 12 – 13 at the tea break.

On resumption another '5' was scored against. Again this difference was closed to two shots when a further count of '4' went against. A '3' and '4' helped reduce the difference to just one on the penultimate end.

Jim Davies drew a tremendous shot with the opposition holding two shots 6 inches front and back of the jack. Don failed by a millimetre to make the two shots needed to win

Howard Craven's rink had a bad day on a bad rink, against a triple which was played with the standard rule. This resulted in a seven shot deduction, which did not affect the final result.

Ivor Robertson also had an unsatisfactory result with his rink. They were 7 – 0 down after three ends, and although they were successful on eight of the nine following ends, they still trailed by three shots, as a '5' was conceded on the losing end. Only one further winning end brought a score in their favour during the remaining ends.

J Ferguson, J Crout, L Davies, D Brook 18 – 21; D Evans, W Vaughan, G Davies, H Craven 10 – 21; J Stacey, D Hammond, J Davies, D Kuhnell 25 - 25; A Prince, P Swannick, M Curtis, I Robertson 11 – 23. Final score: 70 – 98.

CADOXTON 'A' V CENTRAL – ML6

Cadoxton hosted the fixture against Central and although losing on only one rink, the failed to win the aggregate score by just one shot. There were two good wins, a tie and one defeat.

Roy Harding had a terrible start against Tom Kaged by going down 10-0 after three ends. Nevertheless a '7' on the next started a run of eight winning ends, which finished with a '6' and made a 24-10 scoreline. During the remaining ends the visitors scored 12 shots against 6.

Steve Clarke skipped his rink against Brian Hutchins to another success, although it was not until the 14th end that they took the lead. The advantage was held until the score was tied on the 19th end, but a '5' on the next ensured a win. This was despite one of the home side not remembering, on numerous occasions, that the small spot goes on the inside.

Graham Garland, playing again after a lengthy absence, had Karl Cowling drop in at the last minute to make up the numbers on his rink. They met Red Hudd and fought out a fairly close game; however it needed a '3' on the final end by the home rink to produce a tie.

Finally after his big win last week, Dave Tuck's rink failed to get in front throughout, against Howard Spencer.

S Clements, I Heppenstall, R Cole, R Harding 30 –22 C Willacott, K Tanner, D Goddard, T Caged; L Adams, D Fanning, G Brown, S Clarke 22 –16 K Tanner, D Smith, J Wathes, B Hutchins; G Solomon, E, Heppenstall, M Mathews, D Tuck 1 2 –27 G Young, I King, G Thomas, H Spencer; G Powell, D Corrigan, K Cowling, G Garland l 8 – 18 C Ditchburn, D Jeynes, A Rogers, E Hudd. Final score: 82 - 83. **DK**

Table tennis

THE Cardiff Community Table Tennis Club, which meets every Friday evening in the Upper Hall of Wales Sport in Sophia Gardens from 7pm until 9pm, resumes its evening sessions on August 16.

Please note that there is no session on August 23.

It uses 16 table tennis tables and provides the use of bats and balls free of charge. There is no joining fee, just £3 per evening and £2 for juniors, and players of all ages and abilities are welcome.

There are opportunities to play matches in the Cardiff League for those who want to play competitively. Please telephone Roy Gibson on 01446 412352 for more information. **RG**

Bill survives Blitz to be last man standing

AS the name suggests, Blitz Chess is chess played at speed.

Each player has only a limited time to play all his moves and if the clock beats him, he loses the game – no matter how well he might be winning on the board.

In the tournament at the Barry West End Club last week, 12 players competed for the right to be called the fastest gun in the West (End).

Seven rounds of 10-minute games were played and new Welsh international Bill Hewitt won the first six of them to guarantee himself the accolade.

None of the senior players at the club seemed to really trouble Bill and he secured the medal with a round to spare. Steve Cunliffe and Rhys Steele both won their final games to tie for second place, and Sam Jukes impressed by sharing fourth place with Nigel Ralphs.

More than half of the entrants were battling for the rating prize and this contest was wide open. When the last round began, there were still four players in contention for the prize. Martin Ricketts, Sam White, John Stephenson, and Peter Watkins were all hoping that the last round pairings would be kind and give them the chance to take the prize.

So when Peter Watkins was paired to play the all-conquering Bill Hewitt in the last round, he must have thought his chances of winning the plate had gone – but he put in a battling display to hold a drawn endgame despite being a pawn down, and when he looked up from the board he saw that none of his rivals had won, and he stood alone on three-and-a-half points to take the grading prize.

Another highlight of the night was the victory of the younger Mahoney over his time honoured relative – although Mahoney senior did register a win over the club secretary, so that every member of the club scored at least one win on the night.

Battle recommences at the West End Club at 7:30pm on Monday August 19, with another form of speed chess. The annual lightning tournament features a buzzer that sounds every ten seconds. Players must make their moves when the buzzer sounds – ready or not! All-comers are welcome; you don't have to be a member to take part and there is no entry fee.

For more details visit barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

The Barry Chess Club meets each Monday at their home venue of The West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry, CF62 6QY with matches starting at 7:30pm. New players of all ages and standards are welcomed.

Dewar Shield squad announced

AFTER six months of extensive development coaching, the following 29 boys have been selected to represent the Vale Schools in the Dewar Shield Competition.

SQUAD: Forwards: Duncan Ace – Cowbridge Comp, Robert Boyt – Barry Boys, Basil Crack – Stanwell, Alex Drake – Stanwell, Aled George – Bro Morgannwg, Joshua James – Stanwell, Owen Lloyd – Stanwell, Rhys Picton – Stanwell, Aaran Rees-Thomas – Barry Comp, Lian Richards – St Cvers, Joe Short – Stanwell, Mitchell Smyth – Barry Boys, Sam Sullivan – Sir Richard Green, Owain Thomas-Jenkins – Bro Morgannwg

Backs: Rhys Beynon – Bro Morgannwg, Daniel Bunney – Cowbridge Comp, Sean Davies – Cowbridge Comp, Cia Evans – Cowbridge Comp, William Gale – Stanwell, James Holder – Cowbridge Comp, Evan Holloway – Llantwit Major, Rhys Jones – Stanwell, Harry Morgan-Grant – Barry Comp, Joe Nott – Cowbridge Comp, Samuel Palmer – Llantwit Major, Morgan Rees – Stanwell, Spencer Robinson – Stanwell, Ben Rose – Barry Boys, Dafydd Smith – Bro Morgannwg.

Squad training is now under way every Friday evening at selected clubs throughout the Vale prior to the first match, that will take place in late September. We have been drawn in the first round with Pontypridd, Pembroke, Merthyr, Islwyn, and Aberavon with the top two going on to round two. **ST**

Barry Town United earn win

BARRY Town United made it three from three in England this summer, with an excellent 3-0 win at Toolstation Western League outfit Hengrove Athletic on Saturday.

Goalkeeper Dan Bradley captained the team for the hastily-arranged match, the first time he had worn the skipper's armband since his 200th Barry Town appearance at Haverfordwest County.

Making several changes, manager Gavin Chesterfield brought back Lewis Grant on the left flank, after Grant had missed the Cardiff match due to injury, and gave a start to the ever-reliable Ryan Dorrian in midfield.

Namesake Ryan Evans, who impressed as a substitute against the Bluebirds, returned to the Barry defence, alongside the popular Paul Morgan and Lewis Cosslett, a Town goalscorer the previous weekend.

Fourth man Bobby Briers meanwhile entered a standout performance, his finest in Town colours, to keep the talented and hard-working Western Leaguers at bay.

The early stages saw both teams working hard and playing some entertaining football; Hengrove creating several opportunities, though none a significant danger to Bradley's goal.

The opener came at the other end, around the half-hour mark. After a corner forced a Hengrove defender to clear from the far post, Barry's Ryan Jenkins used a clever flick of the heel to divert the follow-up shot into the net.

Within minutes, the north Somerset skies opened and a torrential downpour drenched the teams, as the coachload of flag-bearing Barry fans who made the trip sang songs of support from the relative comfort of the stands.

The good football however continued, and would resume after the break, after a few hardy supporters had braved a rain-lashed dash for half-time refreshment!

Ten minutes into the second half, Barry doubled their lead and Jenkins was again the man to congratulate. Chasing down a defender in his trademark manner and capitalising on a mistake, Jenkins seized the ball and, passing the Hengrove goalkeeper, rolled it home into the empty net.

Chesterfield would go on to ring the changes, bringing on a healthy seven prospects from the Barry youth set-up in Daniel Bell, Thomas Case, Keir McInery, Bradley O'Loughlin, Adam Owens, Theo Richards and Curtis Searle.

Each slotted in well and would play their part in keeping Barry ahead, all while gaining valuable first team experience.

It was former Newport Country midfielder Troy Greening though who would put the icing on the rain-soaked cake with his first in Barry colours – eluding the Hengrove goalkeeper and a retreating defender to finish from an acute angle.

The strike would be Barry's ninth across the border in three outings, and would give the supporters cause for celebration on the short journey back across the Severn Bridge.

Barry: Dan Bradley (captain); Paul Morgan, Lewis Cosslett, Ryan Evans, Bobby Briers; Lewis Grant, Ryan Dorrian, Troy Greening, Michael Hartley; Jordan Cotterill, Ryan Jenkins. Substitutes used: Daniel Bell, Thomas Case, Keir McInery, Bradley O'Loughlin, Adam Owens, Theo Richards, Curtis Searle. **AC**

Lady vice-captains' diamond prizes

Silver winner Rose Pitman and bronze winner Barbara Watkins with ladies vice-captain Carole Bumford.

BRYNHILL ladies enjoyed the glorious weather in July, with all their competitions well supported.

The highlight of the month was the ladies' vice captain's day on July 23. Carole Bumford, the ladies' vice captain, presented the winners with beautiful 'Hot Diamond' necklaces. The evening was enjoyed by all the lady golfers and they would like to thank Carole for arranging such a superb day.

The silver winner was Rose Pitman with 39 points, and runner-up was Sam Pascoe. The bronze winner was Barbara Watkins with 44 points, and runner-up was Libby Fine.

Results of other competitions: Bob Hope Rose Bowls: Silver winner – Rose Pitman with 40 points; bronze winner: Jane Phillips with 43 points.

4BBB Trophy: winners – Jo Kirkpatrick and Jane Phillips with 47 points. Runner-up Norma Phillips and Diane Bryant – 46 points.

Winifred Clode and Cancer Relief: winner – Audrey Phillips 41 points. Runner-up Rose Pitman 39 points. **AP**

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